



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Mideast Delegates Comment on Ninth Round of Talks

Israel's Rabinovich Views Talks

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[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israeli ambassador to the United States and head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with Syria, by Drora Perl and David Avidan; in Washington "toward the end of the ninth round of talks"]

[Text] [DAVAR] Where do the various tracks of the peace talks stand as the ninth round comes to an end?

[Rabinovich] First, we have stopped referring to separate rounds. We, together with the Americans, decided to adopt the term "session." The idea is that we are not completing a round but rather going home for consultations. We will reconvene in early June, and we will not necessarily have a deadline. I know that the Americans think in terms of recurrent periods of two or three weeks, followed by short consultation periods of 7-10 days. This is approximately the format they would like to introduce, and I hope that this is one of the things we will achieve in the present round.

When we judge the results, we must take into consideration the expectations or the point of departure. Three weeks ago, we were not even certain that the Palestinians and the other Arab delegations would come. Quite a few people assumed or, rather, were concerned that the Palestinians would not come and that even if they did, they would not enter real negotiations, would create an immediate crisis, or would leave the negotiations after a couple of days. This concern did not materialize, and despite moments of tension and an atmosphere of crisis, three weeks of discussions were completed, sessions were held, and small working groups were established.

I would have been very pleased to be deeply involved in substantive issues by now, but I would certainly not speak of a crisis at this time.

[DAVAR] What is your reaction to the Palestinian claim that not all the promises made to them on the eve of the ninth round have been kept?

[Rabinovich] We returned old-time deportees, and we submitted to the Americans a list of 25 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees who went through the appeals process. Therefore, they should not complain about the Rabin-Christopher agreement of 1 February.

We should differentiate between issues pertaining to the resolution of the deportee crisis and other steps aimed at facilitating the talks and the arrangement. Faysal al-Husayni's inclusion on the delegation, for example, was unrelated to the deportee affair; it was an American

proposal to which we agreed, because we believed it would facilitate the talks, and this step indeed proved itself. Other steps we adopted, such as the promise to improve the living conditions in the territories, family reunification, and the release of administrative detainees, were aimed at creating an atmosphere of confidence.

[DAVAR] How do you explain al-Husayni's trip or, as the Palestinian call it, his "recall" to Tunis?

[Rabinovich] I do not think his trip was related to the issue of the 25 deportees. It was primarily prompted by the fact that he has other political fronts, in addition to the negotiations, with which he must deal—both in the territories and in Tunis. His various occupations keep him from remaining in Washington for a long period at a stretch. The explanation for his trip should consequently be sought in his requirements as a political personage rather than in a protest against our moves.

[DAVAR] In an interview published earlier this week in the London-based AL-WASAT newspaper, President al-Asad said he agrees to full peace in exchange for full withdrawal and claimed that on several issues, the ball is in the Israeli court. Do you think the Israeli Government should take the initiative and put al-Asad to the test by coming out with a more explicit statement on the withdrawal issue?

[Rabinovich] I think this would be a mistake. I believe that al-Asad means what he says, but I do not know what he means when he speaks of "full peace." All the Syrians have to do is answer a series of very simple questions: Does full peace, from their viewpoint, include diplomatic relations and open borders? If the answer is positive, then when would this apply? We will not settle for an answer that says "full peace" will include diplomatic relations only a generation from now. I want to be assured that they are referring to something that can be implemented immediately.

[DAVAR] Is it possible that al-Asad is hiding his cards because he is discouraged by the political atmosphere in Israel, especially regarding the issue of withdrawal from the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] We are the first to admit that there is no consensus in Israel regarding the issue of withdrawal. We also maintain that the peace moves must be buttressed by broad public support. We are a democratic society, and the public will support the peace moves when it understands and becomes convinced that Syria desires peace and when it finds out precisely what kind of peace Syria wants. We are therefore demanding that Syria implement steps that would clarify to the Israeli public that it has crossed the Rubicon and wants peace. We also want to know that this policy enjoys public support in Syria itself; this would help the Israeli public to unite behind the government's policy. It is not surprising that people in Israel raise questions and objections regarding

this issue. Syria should conclude from this that it must face Israeli public opinion and present its position in the most convincing manner.

[DAVAR] What is preventing al-Asad from saying he agrees to make full contractual peace with us?

[Rabinovich] I am not certain that al-Asad has already reached this decision. Al-Asad boarded the peace process train knowing that its final station should be full peace. I have yet to be convinced that he has decided to take the train to the final station, as well as pay the price for the ticket. What I am saying is that along the way, one must give up some of one's demands. Wanting to make peace on your own terms is one thing; making peace on the basis of a give-and-take compromise is another thing altogether.

[DAVAR] Contrary to al-Asad's comments in the aforementioned interview, which evince a certain flexibility, it appears that the Syrian delegation has become more inflexible.

[Rabinovich] I do not think the Syrian delegation members have hardened their position. They are focused on their demand to hear the words "full withdrawal" from us and obviously to receive a commitment to this effect. My impression is that they are acting on instructions from Damascus. Naturally, their focusing on this demand is not helping us achieve progress in the talks.

I do not see any contradiction between the position with which the Syrian delegation opened the ninth round—namely, "full peace in exchange for full withdrawal"—and the interview in which this formula also appeared. The idea of a different rate of progress in the different negotiation tracks was already raised in an interview given by Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' to the BBC, although it was somewhat differently formulated. We can see that Syria is working in an organized manner, with the president setting the tone and his subordinates following suit. Some of al-Asad's formulations were somewhat sharper than those of the delegation members, but this is not surprising, because in an autocratic and centralized regime such as Syria, the president can afford things which his subordinates would hesitate to allow themselves.

[DAVAR] Does Israel believe that there is a contradiction between a separate and a comprehensive peace?

[Rabinovich] There is indeed a contradiction. We are not speaking about a separate peace, however, but rather about a peace "which stands on its own two feet," an expression which infuriates the Syrian delegation. Al-Asad, however, treated this expression humorously in the AL-WASAT interview. This formulation is meant to express the feeling that peace with any of the sides is only a part of a whole, while standing on its own feet. We might compare it with a folk dance in which people support each other's shoulders, yet stand on their own two feet.

[DAVAR] In the framework of the negotiations, each country is concentrating on its own issues. Is it clear that no Arab side will sign a separate agreement?

[Rabinovich] In his interview, al-Asad hinted that it is possible to advance along each track separately. We do not have a clear answer regarding how far they will permit this separate progress. Obviously, we will not commit ourselves to far-reaching moves without knowing in advance what the next four or five moves will be. To wit, we do not want to partake in negotiations wherein, after we have gone 95 percent of the road with Syria, the Syrians suddenly say: "Hold on. Now we are waiting for your agreement on Jerusalem."

[DAVAR] Do al-Asad's comments in his interview coincide with your oft-repeated call for an overt peace diplomacy on Syria's part?

[Rabinovich] Certainly. As far as al-Asad's statements are concerned, this is the most important and most highlighted interview since August, the time when this delegation (headed by Rabinovich) started negotiating. Its general tone is positive, and it includes several significant specific comments. We must notice, however, that the interview was given to a British journalist who published it in Arabic in London. The same remarks made by al-Asad in Arabic on Damascus television would have carried much more weight.

[DAVAR] Do you think that al-Asad will let us reach an understanding with the Palestinians regarding the self-government without receiving any gesture on the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] It would seem so. The statements emanating from Damascus over the last week, however, created a different impression. Once it appeared that the Syrian track was stalemated while progress was being made along the Palestinian track, statements began to trickle out of Damascus, especially from the direction of al-Shar', expressing reservations.

In our negotiations with the Lebanese, we submitted a document which allowed for significant movement, but we see no movement. We know that last weekend the Lebanese traveled to Damascus. This means that when the Syrians say that progress may be made at various rates along the different tracks, they are actually referring to themselves.

As far as Lebanon is concerned, everything depends on Syria. Lebanon is not an independent country in *de facto* terms. When the Syrians decide that it is permissible for Lebanon to make progress, it will be possible to advance very quickly. It is hard to believe, however, that this will happen before the Syrians are satisfied regarding their own situation.

[DAVAR] Are you satisfied with the way the Clinton administration has translated into practice the role of "full partner," which it announced, over the past three weeks?

[Rabinovich] During that time not a single action or move was taken by the Americans that was contrary to our opinion.

[DAVAR] Are the Arabs disappointed?

[Rabinovich] Why should they be?

[DAVAR] The Syrians made it known that the role of full partner has so far not found adequate expression.

[Rabinovich] Al-Aasad never makes do with little.

[DAVAR] Is the role of full partner expected to develop during the negotiations? Will there be additional American bridging proposals?

[Rabinovich] At some point, when the process moves closer to the final stages, there might also be bridging proposals. Sometimes, in order to go the final mile in negotiations, a bridging proposal is called for. The only peace treaty we have is not the result of a bridging effort but of American mediation. I am not mentioning that in order to say that I am for mediation, as I think the current setup is good for us. We do not have to be dogmatic. If we find that we need a bridging proposal in order to go that final mile, then so be it.

[DAVAR] Has there been a significant change in the U.S. Administration's handling of the negotiations since Clinton entered the White House?

[Rabinovich] There has been no revolution in concepts or methodology in their work approach, but, of course, there are differences. First of all, the situation has changed between us and the Arabs, especially with the Palestinians. There has also been a change in personal style.

There is also a difference between the period when Christopher visited our region—when our problem received priority—and the situation this week, when the U.S. Administration's agenda and the focus of Congress and public opinion is directed at Bosnia, which for them is now a much more vital issue. From many points of view, however, there has been continuity. The professional group dealing with the peace process is veteran and represents continuity.

[DAVAR] In this round, you are both Israel's ambassador to the United States and head of the Israeli negotiating team with Syria. How do you manage all the duties assigned you and how do they complement each other?

[Rabinovich] It, of course, demands long working hours. The two roles complement each other because our work in the embassy is now focused on the peace process. The fact that I am participating in the peace process and am not merely a spectator definitely enhances my work along both tracks.

Delegates Hold News Conference

JN1405111393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has stated that the ninth round of talks ended without achieving any progress.

In a joint news conference held by the heads of the Syrian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Jordanian Arab delegations to the talks, al-'Allaf said: Despite the importance pinned on this round, which was held after a five-month hiatus in the talks because of the Israeli obstacles, it ended without achieving any progress following three weeks of talks. This was due to the Israeli delegation's refusal to abide by what was stipulated by the resolutions and the principles on which the peace process is based.

Al-'Allaf said the current condition of the talks after the conclusion of this round and 18 months after the start of the peace process is still the same as it was during the initial rounds.

He added: Despite the change of Israeli Government, which coincided with the sixth round of talks, and despite the fact that the new government of Yitzhaq Rabin pledged to follow a course in the negotiations different from its predecessor's, the state of these negotiations stayed just as it was left by the former Israeli Government.

Al-'Allaf pointed out that while over the past nine rounds of talks Israel has not abided by the principle of land for peace or by the requirements of Security Council Resolutions 242, which stipulates the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, the Arab parties participating in the peace process have since the start of this process abided by all obligations stipulated by Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. Al-'Allaf asserted that there is no possibility of establishing peace unless Israel abides by that equation and by what is stipulated by the two UN Security Council resolutions.

Asked about the next step regarding the talks, and if the parties will wait for an invitation from the two cosponsors for a new round or if the negotiations process would continue in the form of a series of talks, Syrian chief delegate al-'Allaf said: The question of continuous negotiations cannot be discussed at this stage because there is not any kind of progress in the talks. As for future rounds, the matter is left for consultations among the parties concerned and the conference cosponsors. He pointed out the foreign ministers of the Arab parties concerned with the peace process meet after each round to assess that round and make the proper decision.

Speaking at the joint conference, Palestinian chief delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed that there was no progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track during the ninth round. He said: I think that the negotiating process suffers from a lack of fairness and credibility. He noted

the principles on which the peace process is based; namely, Resolutions 242 and 338. He said the first of these two resolutions stipulates the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and withdrawal within the framework of a peace agreement.

He noted that the principal obstacle facing the negotiations is Israel's noncompliance with the peace process terms of reference. He added: Contrary to the world's commonly held belief, Israel does not consider itself an occupation force. It seeks to use the negotiations process to give legitimacy to what it has illegally built in the occupied territories during the past 25 years of its occupation of these territories.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi explained the nature of the dilemma facing negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track. He said: The Palestinian position in these talks, which tackle the first phase of the settlement or what is called the autonomy phase, is in line with the terms of reference and is based on concept that the jurisdiction of the interim self-government must cover all occupied territories. Israel opposes this, based on the notion that it does not consider itself an occupation force and that it views the occupied territories as a disputed territory.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed: We consider these territory as occupied territories and that the transfer of powers to the transitional self-government must be primarily based on the fact that the jurisdiction over the territories must be at the hands of the self-government.

'Abd-al-Shafi said: This is the core of the problem. Additionally, there are matters related to the administrative council, which must be elected through direct, free elections, and must enjoy legislative powers.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said the U.S. sponsor of the talks should have exerted efforts to remedy this situation, which is marked by a lack of fairness and credibility, by forcing the two negotiating sides to respect the terms of reference.

'Abd-al-Shafi wondered if this process can continue with this lack of compliance with the terms of reference. The Palestinian chief delegate stated that the Palestinian side would remain seriously and sincerely faithful to the peace process.

Jordanian chief delegate Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali also spoke at the joint news conference and said: We cannot claim that we have achieved progress in this round. At the beginning of this round, the Israeli side made certain signs suggesting progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track, such as the formation of three committees on autonomy, human rights, and land and water. These signs were reflected in the Jordanian delegation's talks with the Israeli party when three committees charged with specific tasks stipulated in the working paper were established.

He added: We made certain moves on our track based on initial signs of progress on the Palestinian track. However, these signs failed to result in anything that could be translated into real progress. Therefore, we cannot claim to have made any progress.

He said: Unless progress is achieved on the Palestinian-Israeli track, there will probably be no progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track. We do not in any way want peace to be divided into small parts.

Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, reviewed developments on the Lebanese-Israeli track during this round. He noted the document which the Lebanese delegation presented to the Israelis on 11 May in reply to the paper the Israelis presented on 4 May. Shammas said that the central question in the talks on this track is Israel's complete withdrawal from the Lebanese territory.

He pointed out that after reviewing the Lebanese document, the Israeli side presented at the final meeting of this round a list of questions and queries which was conveyed to the Lebanese Government to prepare the answers.

'Abd-al-Shafi: 10 Factions Must Join

TA1405144293 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
14 May 93 pp 1, 7

[By Hilmi al-Asmar]

[Excerpts] Amman, QUDS PRESS—Chief Palestinian negotiator Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has stressed the necessity of "going back to the Palestinian people so that a decision will be made with the participation of everyone" on whether to continue in the peace process and emerge from the impasse that the talks have reached after nine rounds without any progress.

In a telephone contact with the QUDS PRESS correspondent in Amman, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi emphasized that the ninth round of the Washington talks failed to achieve any progress, as the Palestinian and Israeli delegations turned down the draft declarations of principles that each side presented to the other.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi added: Preparations are under way to convene the Palestine Central Council at the beginning of next month to decide on an appropriate way for dealing with this stalemate that we are in. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi emphasized the need of having the 10 opposition factions participate in the adoption of such a decision, and said: The decision now is up to the PLO, as it is the Palestinian people's leadership. However, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] should also be invited to participate in adopting the decision. The situation does not permit this factional dispute. Our own interest as well as that of Palestine and the Palestinians is above all factional considerations. Hence, I believe that Palestinians from inside and outside the PLO, including the 10 factions in Syria, should participate in making

this decision. We are at the moment of truth. We must be sincere and faithful and should absolutely avoid narrow and factional disputes and try to reach agreement among ourselves on how best to achieve the Palestinian interest. The differences existing among us Palestinians could destroy us. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi voiced agreement with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's remark that the outcome of the talks so far has been zero. He said: Actually there has been no progress because Israel has not committed itself to the point of reference of the peace process, Resolution 242, and because of its human rights violations, continued settlement activity, and its rejected stance on the issue of Jerusalem. These are the main obstacles to progress in the talks and we have repeatedly told the U.S. sponsor so. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed: This process does not and will not have any chance of success as long as Israel acts in this manner. [passage omitted]

Al-Khatib Calls Talks 'Failure'

PM1705091593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 May 93 pp 1, 4

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi, 'Ali al-Salih, and Muhammad Sadiq report: "Palestinian Leadership Rejects U.S. Sponsor's Intervention"]

[Excerpt] Tunis, London, Washington—The Palestinian leadership in Tunis yesterday rejected a plan for a declaration of principles submitted by the U.S. sponsor in the first intervention of its kind in the Washington bilateral negotiations.

The Palestinian rejection was based on the fact that the U.S. plan completely espouses the Israeli ideas and constitutes a violation of the rules underlying the peace process and the invitation and letters of assurance addressed to the Palestinians.

The United States intervened in the negotiations for the first time on the eve of the date (yesterday) set for the conclusion of the ninth round. It submitted a working paper whose content was not revealed but was said to be aimed at surmounting differences between the Palestinian and Israeli sides over autonomy and the proposed declaration of principles.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, the member of the Palestinian delegation who suspended his participation in the negotiations, has emphasized the failure of the ninth round but pointed out that this failure does not mean the end of the peace process. He attributed this failure to the failure to secure Palestinian demands.

Al-Khatib expressed his surprise at the decision to reduce the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations in protest at Israeli intransigence. He said the decision reflected confusion, because it coincided with the Palestinians' demand that the ninth round be extended for another week. He also stressed that the delegation went

to the negotiations without a Palestinian cover and under strong pressure from the PLO leadership.

Dr. al-Khatib urged the convening of an expanded meeting to be attended by all the factions—those who reject [the peace process] and those who accept it—in order to draw up a rational strategy for the future, as he put it.

Dr. al-Khatib, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in London from his house in occupied Jerusalem, said that he was not surprised by the results of the ninth round of negotiations in Washington. "We warned against agreeing to hold and participate in that round without securing the Palestinian demands endorsed and announced previously."

On the plan submitted through the intervention of the U.S. sponsor in Washington, Jamil Hilal, director of the PLO Information Department, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Tunis that the leadership decided to reject the plan for the preceding reasons and also because it ignores the issue of occupied Jerusalem, on the grounds that it is a Palestinian territory. And it also ignores the need to end the Israeli occupation.

Hilal added that by this plan the U.S. Administration has shown that it is a full partner of Israel, thus is a long way from playing an impartial and neutral role in the negotiating process.

Hilal emphasized that the Palestinian leadership believes that the sponsors of the peace process should direct their efforts toward issuing an agreed declaration of principles, not a political statement intended for the media and designed to conceal the failure to achieve any tangible progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. [passage omitted]

Syria's al-'Allaf on Israeli's Remarks

JN1505063293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Washington—Dr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the peace talks, has commented on statements made by (Uri Drumi), spokesman for the Israeli Government, concerning peace. Al-'Allaf said that this statement is merely another attempt by Israel to evade its commitments toward the peace process. In a statement yesterday, al-'Allaf said that (Drumi) is merely talking about Resolution 242, and not about Israel implementing the text of this resolution. He added that in accordance with the document that it presented several rounds ago, Syria pledged to implement all its obligations in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land for peace formula. Meanwhile, he added, Israel has not pledged to implement that part of the resolution that concerns it, which calls for reversing the illegal occupation of others' land by force in 1967. He added that what applies to the whole applies to the part, and thus no part of the occupied territories can be

retained, nor can it be said that this or that part of the territory is not covered by Resolution 242.

Al-'Allaf said that if Israel wants to keep any iota of the Syrian territory under any pretext, it would be harming Syria's territorial sovereignty and undermining the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of others' territory by force. This is the obstacle that prevents progress being made in the peace process, he concluded.

Lebanon's Shammas Briefs Leaders

NC1505063493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks in Washington, telephoned President Elias al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri last night and briefed them on the atmosphere of the negotiations. Shammas stressed that the firm Lebanese stand has prevented Israel from achieving its objectives in this round.

According to reports from Washington, Israel, which has thwarted the ninth round of the bilateral negotiations, is seeking the help of the U.S. mediator to exert pressure on the Arabs to force them to accept Israel's conditions for establishing peace in the region. This became apparent during the negotiations with the Lebanese delegation. Israel reiterated its condition for leaving the south, namely the signing of a peace treaty with Lebanon within the framework of security arrangements that are independent from Resolution 425 which calls on it to withdraw unconditionally from Lebanese territory. Israel said that the Lebanese reply to its proposals was inadequate.

Lebanon stressed during the negotiations and through statements made by its senior officials and through Shammas its rejection of the Israeli proposals. Shammas said: If we are serious in this peace process, then we believe that Lebanon could be a test field. He added: An Israeli action, starting with its withdrawal, will herald good results.

Addressing the Israeli delegation, the head of the Lebanese delegation went on to say: The essence of your position is to reach security arrangements, implement these security arrangements, and enter into a binding peace and then withdraw. This is utterly unacceptable to us.

But Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations, said in a news conference that Israel will not withdraw from south Lebanon unless it reaches a peace treaty and guarantees security arrangements all along the border.

'Ashrawi Expresses 'Disappointment'

JN1505063593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has said that the recent U.S. intervention in the Middle East peace talks

had been agreed upon with Israel. In a news conference in Washington yesterday, 'Ashrawi criticized the United States and Israel, and described the talks as a disappointment. 'Ashrawi added that the foreign ministers of the Arab states directly involved in the peace process will soon decide whether or not they will continue the talks. 'Ashrawi said a Palestinian request for preconsultations with the Americans has been rejected. However, she continued, we have been told by Israeli sources that the Israelis had prior knowledge of the document and helped in drafting it. She added that the U.S. objective was to appease Israel, and that she did not view this as a real attempt at bridge building.

'Ashrawi criticized Israel for excluding Jerusalem from the negotiations and for the way the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are treated. 'Ashrawi hoped that the strategic U.S.-Israeli alliance will not be reflected on the peace process. This is because, she said, the U.S. paper is not neutral, but adopts the Israeli position.

In the news conference, 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinian delegation absolutely rejected the idea of issuing a joint statement specifying the points of progress and disagreement in the talks with the Israeli delegation. She added that the Palestinian delegation affirmed to the American officials that it prefers an agreement on a comprehensive, integrated concept to be issued in the form of a declaration of principles, but not a statement specifying the minimum level of agreement and disagreement.

'Text' of U.S. Paper to Palestinians, Israelis

JN1605064893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 May 93 pp 1, 10

["Text" of draft "joint statement" presented by the United States "to bridge the gap between Israel and Palestinians in peace talks," "does appear in places where the original available to the JORDAN TIMES was illegible;"—all parentheses, punctuation as published]

[Text] Israeli-Palestinian Joint Statement

Israel and the Palestinians agree that it is time to put an end to the conflict between them. Reaffirming their commitment to the peace process launched at Madrid, they seek to negotiate their differences and create a peaceful future in which Israelis and Palestinians will live side by side, in peace, for generations to come.

The goal of the current Arab-Israeli peace process is real and comprehensive peace, based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Toward this goal, in line with the invitation to the Madrid peace conference, the two sides want to reach agreement, as soon as possible on interim self-government arrangements for the Palestinians in the territories.

The negotiating process is being conducted in phases; the first phase of the negotiations is directed toward

reaching agreement on interim self-government arrangements for five years; and the second phase of the negotiations will be directed toward reaching agreement on permanent status based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The two sides concur that the agreement reached between them on permanent status will constitute the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338.

The two sides agree that this process is one, and its two phases are interlocked in the agreed time frame. They further agree that the outcome of the permanent status negotiations should not be prejudiced or preempted by agreements reached for the interim period. They further agree that all options within the framework of the agreed basis of negotiations should remain open.

During the interim period, a major change will occur in the existing situation in the territories. Functions of the Israeli Civil Administration will be transferred to the Palestinians, and the Civil Administration will be dissolved. The two sides agree that an important outcome of this first phase is the (...) through the negotiation of interim self-government which should give Palestinians greater control over the decisions that affect their lives and fate. It should also put an end to the confrontation between Israel and the Palestinians, and create a new relationship between them. It is Israel's view that the security needs of both sides should be taken into consideration while overall security responsibility as well as the responsibility for Israelis in the territories will remain under Israel during the interim period. It is the Palestinian view that the objective of security arrangements is to achieve regional stability and respond to mutual needs, as well as to create the conditions of real peace. It should also (put an end to the confrontation between Israel and the Palestinian [as published] and) create the basis for a new relationship between them. It is Israel's view that the security needs of both sides should be taken into consideration while overall security responsibility (as well as the responsibilities for Israelis in the territories) will remain under Israel during the interim period. It is the Palestinian view that the legitimate security needs of both will be taken into consideration with the ultimate objective of achieving regional stability and peace. The Palestinian interim authority will establish a strong police force to provide security and maintain public order (alternative language following). The two sides have different views on security, which they will continue to discuss.

Over the past three weeks, Israel and the Palestinians have taken an important step toward these objectives. They have created working groups on key issues, including land and water, the concept of interim self-government, and (humanitarian affairs and) human rights. The two sides have engaged in substantive discussion and have narrowed some of the differences between them. Although there are many issues (discussed in the Israeli-Palestinian track and in the Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian plenary) that have not been included in this statement and that remain to be

resolved. The omission of these issues in this statement is without prejudice to the position of the two sides.

The two sides have agreed that a Palestinian elected interim self-government authority (whose name will be determined) will be established through free fair and direct elections under agreed international preparations. These elections will be held in accordance with agreed modalities to be negotiated under agreed international supervision. Negotiations will take place concerning the modalities for the elections.

The Palestinian authority will assume legislative, executive and judicial powers. It will have legislative power in all the... transferred to it. Due consideration will be given to the need to review legislation in force in specified remaining areas.

The two sides have agreed that the occupied territories are viewed as a single territorial unity. They agree that issues related to the question of sovereignty will be negotiated during talks on permanent status and that negotiations on land issues during the interim period will preserve (take place without prejudice to) territorial integrity; that is the territory will be treated as a whole even while they negotiate the difficult issues of land (Alternatively) they have difficult views on jurisdiction, land and water, which they will continue to discuss. [sentence punctuation s published]

This joint statement represents an important first step towards reaching agreement on interim arrangements. The two sides will direct their efforts to bridging remaining substantive differences. They have submitted themselves to work toward creating a positive climate for those negotiations. They agree that there is no acceptable alternative to making those negotiations succeed, and it is the only realistic pathway to achieving a just and enduring peace.

Rabinovich Discusses Talks, U.S. Role

TA1605072193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500
GMT 16 May 93

[Telephone interview with Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich in Washington by correspondent Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Zohar] I presented you as Israel's ambassador in Washington because we want to clarify this morning how far U.S. involvement in the track to which you are less involved—the Palestinian track—led to this weekend's headlines about the failure of the ninth round of talks.

[Rabinovich] The United States did not do anything which was unacceptable to the sides, including us. The U.S. move definitely did not lead to failure. It did not manage to bring about a genuine result, and in that sense it was a setback, but that is not what caused the failure. Had there not been an active U.S. role prior to the convening of this round and during its proceedings, I do not believe we would have got around to holding the

round, and the Palestinians and the other Arab delegations would not have stayed for the entire round.

[Dan] There is a claim that had the United States not waited until the end of the round, some sort of draft agreement might have been reached.

[Rabinovich] It is clear that when something does not succeed there are reasons for it, and they have to be found. We are holding our own deliberations. I know the United States is trying to learn what went wrong. We are discussing with them what took place in recent weeks, and all that is happening in a good atmosphere. Better timing might have been more beneficial. Discussion on that is not yet over, and perhaps more importantly, we are already looking to the future.

[Zohar] We have already heard, at least from the Palestinian side, that they are doubtful about coming to the next round of talks. They have a feeling that the U.S. plan supports Israel's side—in other words, that the United States coordinated its move with Israel and thereby harmed their efforts as an honest broker.

[Rabinovich] There is such a Palestinian claim, and the Palestinian anger was also shown by the fact that the U.S. draft document was leaked to the (AL-HAYAH) newspaper. Of course, whoever leaked it wanted to harm it and ruin the chances of making any progress. Our feelings are mixed. Of course, we very much want to coordinate with the United States and are pleased with the level of coordination between us. At the same time, we do not want a situation whereby the Arab partners say that there is no point to negotiations because of this close coordination. Part of what we should be looking for in the coming week or two is a work pattern which still provides us with the feeling that we want and need—that there is coordination between us and the United States—while at the same time does not alienate the Arabs and shove them out of the process.

[Dan] Are you convinced that everyone, including the Palestinians, will come to the next round?

[Rabinovich] It is hard to talk about being convinced when discussing this process. We have gone through many upheavals in recent weeks. I think that in the final analysis, the Palestinians will come, but I am sure we will still have ups and downs before resuming the talks.

Israel's Beilin Discusses Peace Talks

TA1605054493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 16 May 93

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by correspondent Arye Golan in Washington on 15 May—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Do you think that the ninth round of talks between Israel and the Arabs was simply a failure?

[Beilin] It was definitely not a roaring success. The fact is that we did not manage even to reach agreement on a

timetable for the negotiations despite all the rounds that have already taken place. This time, when there was a more impressive attempt to reach agreement with the Palestinians via the United States, it did not succeed.

[Golan] Why was that? Who is responsible for the failure?

[Beilin] I think that external elements had an impact this time on the Palestinian track, such as their disappointment over not receiving financial aid from Saudi Arabia, which they thought they would get with the help of U.S. pressure. However, there were also issues linked to the negotiations themselves. We have been stuck for many months on several issues, ever since the breakthrough which occurred when the new government was set up, when we agreed to the principle of withdrawal from the Golan heights and to general elections—and not just municipal elections—in the territories. We have not made much progress, and the framework in which we are deliberating with the other side apparently does not permit us to reach a breakthrough.

[Golan] How do you propose getting out of this deadlock? Do you suggest holding up the entire process and rethinking everything?

[Beilin] Under no circumstances do I suggest stopping the process. A process whereby we are talking directly with our enemies is something we have wanted for many years, and under no circumstances do I propose harming it. The direct process must continue, but I think that beyond that there is a need for further efforts to assure that we do not have to wait each time for the following round and pay an entrance fee to that round.

[Golan] How is that done? Perhaps the active partner should be more active?

[Beilin] I think we have to reconsider what we propose to that active partner, but I think there is no alternative to U.S. involvement in the political process. The issue of active partner was never defined by them, but I think it can go beyond bridging proposals. Perhaps there should be visits to the region from time to time. Talks with the leaders themselves and not just with the negotiators in Washington can help advance the process.

[Golan] How do you explain the fact that despite the new Israeli flexibility or concessions, some of which you recalled, the current Israeli negotiators see that the Arabs are not responding? Might the conclusion in Israel be that there is nobody to talk to, that it is a waste of time to make them offers?

[Beilin] No, certainly not. We know there is somebody to talk to. The claim that there is nobody to talk to ended long ago. There is somebody to talk to among the Syrians and the Lebanese, definitely among the Jordanians, and among the Palestinians. The issue is what to discuss and what can be done. In my talk with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Friday, he told me what he told the Palestinians: You must know that the day will

come—and it is drawing closer—when the United States will not give a damn about the whole process. They have other things on their agenda, and without them there will be no peace. If they withdraw from the process, there will be no peace process, and you will be the main losers. I believe he is absolutely right. The United States has not put the Middle East on top of their agenda. They are busy with Bosnia and many domestic issues, and if it is taken off the agenda the chances of advancing the process decline. We have an interest in committing the United States to upgrading the Middle East on their agenda and to calling on them for an involvement which does not necessarily—in fact, not at all—constitute an alternative track to the negotiations, but on the contrary, helps our negotiations with our neighbors. If that happens, I believe we will be able to reach a real solution within months and not years because the best thing we have is that we all more or less know the direction a solution with all four sides we are negotiating with should take.

Israeli, PLO Delegates Participate in Bonn Parley

TA1605105593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
16 May 93 p A3

["Exclusive" report by Yehudit Winkler, correspondent in Germany]

[Excerpt] Israeli and PLO representatives participated over the weekend in a meeting of the committee on Middle East affairs of the Socialist International held in Bonn on ways to advance the peace process.

The next meeting of the committee will be held in Tunis in September. After that, a session will be held in Israel, and the fourth meeting is due to take place in Amman with the participation of Israeli delegates.

At a news conference after the Bonn meeting, Israel's representative, Yisra'el Gat, chairman of Labor's foreign relations department, and 'Abdallah al-Franji, the PLO representative in Germany, both participated.

Al-Franji welcomed the invitation to the PLO delegation to the deliberations and noted that the atmosphere was good despite the deep differences of opinion. He demanded that Israel take action to return calm to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank by lifting the closure and returning the deportees. Al-Franji stressed that the condition of the local population in the territories has recently deteriorated and demanded immediate action to alleviate the situation.

In response to a question why the PLO is not taking action to stop terrorism so as to strengthen the peace camp in Israel, al-Franji claimed that the uprising is the sole weapon of a population under military occupation. He did not respond when asked to what extent the PLO controls the territories and represents the majority of the Palestinian population.

Al-Franji rejected the view that the Palestinians must give top priority to doing everything they can not to miss the opportunity for peace. He noted that peace is no less important for Israel than the Palestinians.

Al-Franji told HA'ARETZ that the European states, led by Germany, are doing very little to advance the peace process. He complained in particular about what he called the unilateral and hostile position of Germany toward Palestinian interests. "Germany is the only state in Europe where the PLO has not been granted diplomatic status," he said. [passage omitted]

Oslo Refugee Talks End in Agreement on International Aid

TA1605113693 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
16 May 93 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] For the first time the Palestinians have agreed to the implementation of plans for improving the standard of living in the refugee camps, and will help international organizations in building, social welfare, and economic plans in the camps.

Palestinian sources told 'AL HAMISHMAR that this is the main achievement made in the talks of the multilateral committee on refugees affairs, which have ended in Oslo last weekend.

The sides have also agreed that a French representative will submit recommendations on a policy for family reunification in the territories. The Palestinians demanded to establish fixed criteria, whereas the Israeli delegation demanded to examine each case individually.

The sources said PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat was involved in the talks by giving directives to the Palestinian delegation.

Ilyas Zurayq, the head of the Palestinian delegation, said that technical Israeli-Palestinian committees will be established for pursuing contacts in the periods between the sessions.

The next official session of the committee will be held in Tunis next autumn.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Monetary Fund Halts Loans to Iraq, Somalia, Sudan

NC1605140293 Paris AFP in English 1332 GMT
16 May 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 16 (AFP)—The Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab world's chief lender, said it is increasingly strapped for funds as Iraq, Sudan and Somalia have failed to pay off more than half a billion dollars in debts.

The AMF said here in its annual report Saturday that it has halted loans to those three war-hit countries which accounted for most of the unpaid debts to the Abu Dhabi-based organisation.

"The AMF financial resources are under great pressure due to an increase in outstanding debts by some member states," the report said.

AMF members' total arrears stood around 574 million dollars at the end of 1992, representing nearly 46 percent of the fund's capital and up from 528 million dollars in arrears at the end of 1991.

Iraq's outstanding debt was around 232 million dollars, Sudan's at 220 million dollars and Somalia's at 107 million dollars. Syria and Mauritania accounted for the rest. The debt includes nearly 397 million dollars in principal, 149 million dollars in interest and the rest in official interest.

In recent press comments, AMF Chairman Usamah al-Faqih said such arrears were affecting the institution's obligations to other members, which badly need funds to finance economic reforms they have just launched.

Economists said they believed the problem could even exacerbate as Iraq is still under United Nations Gulf war sanctions while the coffers of Sudan and Somalia have been sapped by civil wars.

Before the Gulf war, Iraq was the main contributor to the AMF along with the other oil-rich states in the region. But it was also the main beneficiary from the Fund's loans which were used in tackling its balance of payment deficit.

The AMF, with a capital of around 1.2 billion dollars, was created by the Arab League in 1976 with the primary objective of tackling persistent balance of payment deficits, mainly in poor Arab nations.

But it recently began to switch activities to providing technical assistance and supporting economic reforms after more than 2.4 billion dollars in soft-term loans produced no results.

According to the AMF report, the loans associated with economic reforms soared to 83 percent of the total AMF loans between 1989 and 1992 from less than 25 percent in the previous years.

"This was due to a revision of the Fund's lending policy which now illustrates a strong tendency to support economic reform programmes in member states, which are eligible for receiving loans," it said.

It said loans and outstanding dues by some member states had sharply exceeded their share in the capital. Somalia's debt accounted for 380 percent of its share, Sudan's for 308 percent, Mauritania's for 242 percent, Morocco's for 148 percent and Iraq's for 120 percent.

Fund Grants Loan to Algeria To Purchase Foodstuffs

LD1505230193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Algeria has obtained a (?\$2.8) million loan from the Arab Fund to finance the import of foodstuffs from Morocco. This was stated by the Arab Fund for Commerce, which is affiliated to the Arab Fund, in a statement issued in Abu Dhabi.

The Arab Fund for Commerce program, with a capital is \$500 million, was set up by the Arab Fund more than two years for the development of Arab commerce.

Palestinian Affairs

Negotiators Gather in Tunis To Brief PLO on Talks

NC1505170193 Paris AFP in English 1606 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Tunis, May 15 (AFP)—Palestinian peace negotiators arrived Saturday in Tunis to brief the PLO leadership on the ninth round of negotiations with Israel, which ended Thursday in Washington without an agreement.

Sami Kilani, Zakariya al-Agha and the spokeswoman of the peace team, Hanan 'Ashrawi, were to take part in the PLO meeting later Saturday, Palestinian sources said.

Chief delegate Faysal al-Husayni was to join them on Sunday, the sources said.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation on Friday rejected a U.S. proposal to bridge the gap between Israel and the Palestinians saying it represented "the Israeli government view on all points."

The American proposal marked the first time the United States, which co-sponsors the peace talks with Russia, had intervened since the Middle East peace process was launched in Madrid in 1991.

Washington submitted it first to the Israelis and then to the Palestinians and billed it as the final attempt to bridge the gap between the two sides.

Last Monday the PLO protested the lack of progress at the peace talks by cutting the number of the Palestinian delegation from 12 to three.

Kilani, al-Agha and Sa'ib 'Urayqat were the three who continued negotiations with the Israeli delegates.

The PLO began reviewing the results of the ninth round of peace talks late Friday in the presence of its chairman, Yasar 'Arafat.

Al-Husayni Arrives

LD1705081493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni yesterday arrived in Tunisia to participate in the meetings of the Palestinian leadership, which began last Friday evening, to evaluate the Arab-Israeli round of talks that ended last Thursday and to study the document presented by the U.S. Administration in order to bypass the disagreement between the Palestinian and Israeli positions.

PLO Central Council To Discuss 9th Round 'Soon'

JN1605122793 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100
GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks with Israel, Mr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, has said that the PLO's Central Council will meet soon to discuss the results of the ninth round of peace talks, which were concluded in Washington on Thursday.

Speaking at a press conference he held in Amman prior to his departure to the occupied Arab territories today, 'Urayqat said that the PLO's Central Council will discuss the results of the negotiations and make a decision on the future of the peace process. Mr. 'Urayqat said there is a wide gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions on the transitional phase of self-government for the occupied Arab territories. He explained that the Israeli working paper excluded Jerusalem, the Israeli settlements, and security. He said, however, new things have emerged in the Israeli paper; namely, the linkage between the phase of self-government and the final status of the occupied Arab territories.

Delegate Views Talks, Urges More U.S. Proposals

NC1605190993 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800
GMT 16 May 93

[Interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by MBC correspondent Mahir Shalabi, on 16 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Urayqat] Current negotiations surround a transitional period that will be based, in the Palestinian view, on four principles: a single geographic unit representing the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem; a separate economic entity; a united authority chosen by free and direct general political elections by the people held under appropriate supervision; and one law for all.

[Shalabi] The U.S. sponsor, which announced it will play the role of honest intermediary in the peace negotiations, presented a draft Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles. The Palestinians rejected it as being biased to Israel. What is your explanation of the U.S. position?

['Urayqat] The sponsor must submit proposals capable of bridging the gap between the two sides. This means that the sponsor must declare its position on the relevant issues. The document must spell out the sponsor's position on Jerusalem, the security issue, the [autonomous power's] geographic jurisdiction, and any exceptions to it. This is what we want. Nevertheless the proposal was a step the like of which had not been made in earlier talks lasting 18 months. In my opinion, this step will have results later on. We must not forget that future negotiations, if any, will take the form of talks based on proposals submitted by the sponsor of the peace conference.

[Shalabi] What is your assessment of the ninth round of talks?

['Urayqat] It was different from previous ones. It included major activity outside the negotiating hall, involving discussions about inter-Arab relations, the role played by the sponsor, and the international attitude to the peace operation and its links with other issues. With regard to the substance of the talks in this round, there was a strong Palestinian inclination to make a joint declaration of principles. However, Israel's failure to fulfill its pledges and its insistence on regarding certain issues as exceptions kept the gap between the Palestinians and Israelis unbridgeable.

Negotiator Criticizes U.S. 'Careless' Stand

JN1605195393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430
GMT 16 May 93

[Interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, Palestinian delegate on the Palestinian negotiating team by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Attorney Furayh Abu-Middayn: You returned from Washington last night. Can you say that progress was made at the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli talks, even though it was not possible to work out a joint declaration of principles.

[Abu-Middayn] On substantive issues, I cannot say that any progress was made; it may be possible to say that there was progress in the form. The Palestinians cannot report any satisfactory progress in reality, especially if this is gauged against the expectations held out for the ninth round. Of course, as you know, the ninth round even failed to produce a declaration of principles to which one might have pointed as a success. The language used in the negotiations was perhaps less strident than in the past; however, the Palestinians and the Israelis failed to agree on matters of substance. I can tell you, therefore, that at the end of the talks, the two sides stuck to the positions they held at the earlier rounds of the negotiations.

[Mu'addi] Some argue that if the United States, as sponsor, stepped in early on in this round, some movement forward might have proved possible.

[Abu-Middayn] There is something to this argument, especially given that the American sponsor remained on

the sidelines as it did in the previous rounds, and waited until the last 24 hours before attempting to get the Palestinians and Israelis to sign a joint statement in order to ensure the convening of the tenth round rather than to achieve a breakthrough as such. The U.S. intervention was one of form and amounted to an attempt to commit the Palestinians to a new round. The signing of a declaration of principles would have been tantamount to an invitation to the tenth round rather than a real achievement of the negotiations. As I already pointed out, the talks are stuck. A new language may have been used, but there has been no bridging of the Palestinian-Israeli gap on substantive issues like territorial sovereignty, legislation, and other such vital issues that may have lent weight to the talks. I personally think the American sponsor must take much of the blame for that; it adopted a laid-back and careless attitude. The United States even failed to deliver on the promises—the six points and the deportee issue—to which it bound itself. When we talked with the Americans about these matters, they were absolutely unresponsive.

[Mu'addi] Has an understanding been reached between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations to resume the negotiations within weeks to try to hammer out a joint declaration of principles, regardless of what takes place on the other tracks?

[Abu-Middayn] No such understanding has been reached. This is up to the [PLO] leadership to decide; and as of now, no such decision has been made.

[Mu'addi] What's next for the Palestinians?

[Abu-Middayn] The Palestinian side will make a reassessment of the entire process. I think it is already being reassessed in Tunis. The Palestinian leadership has the final say in this, and will strive to render success in future negotiations. Our future course of action will be decided in light of the meetings taking place in Tunis, so let's wait and see.

[Mu'addi] Attorney Furayh Abu-Middayn, Palestinian delegate at the Washington talks: Thank you so much.

[Abu-Middayn] Thank you.

'Arafat Calls Arab-Israeli Talks 'Political Battle'

LD1605180293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, affirmed that Palestinians would not bow to the Israeli repression campaign in the occupied territories and that there was no Palestinian who accepts giving up one inch of Jerusalem or of his land.

With regard to the Arab-Israeli negotiations, the brother president said that these negotiations were a political battle as far as Palestinians were concerned, which they

waged with determination and confidence just as the Vietnamese and Algerians held negotiations in their national struggle.

The brother president added that Palestinians were the only side that negotiates and fights on all fronts. He called on Palestinians to struggle hand in hand until the Palestinian flag is hoisted on Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine.

Ten Factions Demand Withdrawal From Peace Talks

JN1605194693 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab
Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 May 93

["Press statement" issued by the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to Arab-Israeli peace talks; date and place not given]

[Text] The 10 Palestinian factions have examined the current phase of Palestinian affairs during which the Palestine question and the continuing glorious intifadah, which has entered its 66th month, are being exposed to a conspiracy of liquidation by imperialist-Zionist forces, in collusion with the deviationist PLO leadership. This collusion has taken the form of engagement in the liquidatory Madrid-Washington course.

The 10 Palestinian factions take pride in the struggle being waged by our people inside the occupied homeland and in the diaspora. They salute this patient and sacrificing people, who have been committed to their just cause, and also to the constants governing the Palestinian national struggle to achieve complete liberation. They also salute their favorable response to the call made by the 10 factions, which urged them to stage a strike on 15 May and to carry out scheduled militant activities against the Zionist enemy to defeat the self-administration conspiracy and support the intifadah to ensure its continuation.

We reiterate our call to the dictatorial PLO leadership to withdraw from the Madrid-Washington course. We also ask the Palestinian negotiating team to immediately withdraw from this destructive course, both the bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

[Signed] The 10 Palestinian factions

Moves Toward Unity Expected After Failure of Talks

JN1605092393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
16 May 93 pp 1,10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—After nine rounds of "fruitless" negotiations with the Israelis, Palestinian leaders are preparing the grounds for an in-depth evaluation of the entire peace process and seeking efforts to rebuild Palestinian unity before the Palestine Council (PCC) meets early next month, Palestinian sources said Saturday.

Repeated calls by some Palestinian leaders to begin a "comprehensive national dialogue" to restore national unity before restarting peace talks "based on Palestinian and international legitimacy" may bear fruit this time, the sources predicted.

At a press conference Saturday, one of these leaders urging the closing of Palestinian ranks, Nayif Hawatimah of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), renewed his call on Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and all factions inside and outside the organisation to work together towards improving inter-Palestinian relations and also the (Madrid) conditions for participation in the peace talks.

PLO insiders told the JORDAN TIMES that some opposition groups, including Mr. Hawatimah's Damascus-based front, have "realised that opposition from a distance does not have any effect on the ground and that a new approach has to be taken."

This approach, the sources said, is to begin with agreeing on a relationship between the PLO leadership and the opposition—to include all political forces, as well as independents—that would eventually "serve the cause and the people."

"There is an urgent need to strengthen the internal situation before we move ahead," said one Palestinian official on condition of anonymity. "This needs leaders with objective and open minds to see how to deal with our situation, and where and how we go from here."

The official said that intensive Palestinian meetings are taking place to prepare an "indepth assessment of the peace process in order to find ways of dealing with the talks before the PCC meeting in Tunis takes place."

The 80-member PCC, which coordinates between the Palestine National Council (PNC) and the PLO Executive Committee, is expected to meet early next month after the Muslim feast of 'Id al-Adha.

Palestinian rifts deepened after the PLO agreed to participate in the ninth round in Washington on April 27 before achieving minimal demands, including the repatriation of expellees stranded in Lebanon's Marj al-Zuhur area and an Israeli declaration not to resort to further expulsions in the future.

Although critics of Mr. 'Arafat accuse him of taking "unilateral decisions," Palestinian analysts said that the chairman's disappointment over the ninth round will "force him to turn inwards to improve inter-Palestinian relations to strengthen his position and see where to go from here vis-a-vis the peace talks."

Total withdrawal from the peace process is not expected, but Mr. Hawatimah's calls for suspension of Palestinian participation until conditions are improved could be answered, analysts said.

The three-week ninth round added to the PLO leadership's frustration after Israel submitted a nine-point "framework agreement" on Palestinian interim self-rule, seen by Tunis as a repetition of previous Israeli proposals which do not guarantee Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. Mr. 'Arafat responded by slashing the number of delegation members from 14 to 3 and dissolved the three working committees set up at the outset of the last round.

The U.S.-proposals submitted to the Palestinian delegation in Washington last week, described as a "point-by-point copy of the Israeli plan," also added to the PLO's disappointment. The American proposal, of which a copy was distributed to the press by Mr. Hawatimah yesterday, was a draft for an "Israeli-Palestinian joint statement," and was rejected by Tunis.

Moreover, Mr. 'Arafat's expectations that Palestinian acceptance to return to the ninth round would "translate U.S. and Israeli promises into action" and that Saudi Arabia would pour badly-needed funds into the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and Palestinian institutions were not fulfilled.

"What I had expected happened," Mr. Hawatimah said referring to his previous warnings against Palestinian participation in the last round. "The delegation has been running in circles for the last 18 months, and it is time to change this approach," he told the press conference.

U.S. Proposal 'Failed' To Address Substantive Issues

TA1405175493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
14 May 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The U.S. Proposals Were Late and Did Not Dwell on Substance"]

[Text] On the eve of the date set for the conclusion of the ninth round of talks, and at the last moment, the United States presented "special proposals" in an attempt to save the talks and bridge the wide gap between the Palestinian and Israeli sides over a document of principles that determines the talks' aims and the nature of the transitional stage.

What is surprising is that on the one hand this intervention came late. On the other hand, if news agency reports are correct that the aim of this U.S. intervention was to achieve "something," perhaps only a "joint statement," so that it could be said that this round made some progress, then such an inclination means that this effort did not seek to confront the fundamental points of difference but sufficed with affirming the points of agreement, which are very limited and do not cover the basic issues.

The United States, the major sponsor of the peace process, is aware that Palestinian-Israeli differences are not limited to this or that marginal point but concern two different concepts of the peace process in general,

and the transitional stage in particular. Those differences did not arise two days before the end of the ninth round but have existed since the Madrid Conference and were obvious in every one of the prior eight rounds. Whereas the Palestinian side adheres to a just and comprehensive peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and regards the transitional stage as a step toward ending the occupation and reaching such a peace, the Israeli proposals—whether those presented by the Likud or Labor governments—continue to adhere to concepts that reinforce many aspects of the occupation, exclude Jerusalem, provide legitimacy to settlement, and do not link the transitional with the permanent stage. These are issues that can neither be conceded nor circumvented by the Palestinian side. They are the very issues that the U.S. proposals should have focused on. This did not happen according to the indications from Washington.

The United States is also aware that the Palestinian side's participation in the ninth round took place on the basis of U.S. and Israeli pledges and guarantees to achieve progress in the current round and improve the situation in the occupied territories. With the conclusion of this round, it became clear that such pledges had been mere promises, only an insignificant part of which were fulfilled. This cannot be considered a real achievement that paves the way toward peace, especially as the situation in the occupied territories continues to deteriorate.

The question today in the Palestinian street in particular, and the Arab one in general, is not about what the ninth round achieved because it failed to achieve anything worth lauding, but about the credibility of U.S. and Israeli promises and pledges and the readiness to deal with such promises and pledges in the future. This is what the Palestinian side and the different Arab parties will certainly take into account when assessing what happened in the long days of the ninth round.

Editorial Views 'Futile' Round of Peace Talks

TA1405185193 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
14 May 93 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Another Futile Round"]

[Text] Although the ninth round of Arab-Israeli talks has ended without the achievement of a broad breakthrough in any of the tracks, and despite the fact that a wide gap between the parties remains, observers feel that matters have begun moving in a direction whereby the domains of disagreement can be condensed and addressed clearly and candidly. This is what differentiates the current round from the preceding ones. Only a naive person can conclude that the Middle East issue, especially the Palestinian problem, can be settled in nine rounds and during a period less than two years.

Today when the members of the delegations are packing their luggage to return to their countries to present reports to their governments on what transpired in this round, we will read in the reports of all the delegations that a slight progress occurred in all the tracks, but the

stumbling block remains Israel's refusal to commit itself to Security Council Resolution 242 or to agree to implement this resolution on the basis of the land for peace principle. Israel rejects the principle of withdrawal from the territories in exchange for a comprehensive peace. Hence, the parties could not reach agreement on a draft declaration of principles either in the Palestinian or Syrian track. Despite the U.S. intervention at the last moment and the different pressure on the Palestinians, the parties could not agree on an acceptable formula. If there were differences among the Palestinians over participation in the ninth round, it became very clear that it was preferable to go to Washington and not be inflexible regarding participation, but rather to adhere to the inalienable principles and move forward in the talks regardless of the results.

When the Palestinians rejected the Israeli document on the declaration of principles and presented a counterproposal on self-rule and the transitional stage, they clearly stated that what is required is sovereignty over Palestinian territory in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, without division, and that the issue of Arab Jerusalem should be discussed and agreed upon, especially after Jerusalem had been isolated by the imposition of the Israeli military siege on it. Moreover, the issue of settlements constitutes an obstacle to agreement over self-rule. The other thorny issue which brought the round to a deadlock was Israel's refusal to discuss the issue of the 400 deportees languishing in Marj al-Zuhur.

Palestinian perceptions on transitional self-rule and a final settlement do not tally with Israel's plans. Washington, which gave the impression to the Palestinians that it would play the role of "full partner" is still in the spectator's seat. Its attempt to save the round at the last moment came to nothing because it did not present any plan or new ideas that could generate momentum.

Before the ninth round had ended talk began about the date of the 10th round. It will not be easy to participate in the ninth round before the Arab cordons states consult and reach agreement on a future plan for the talks. If the Arabs, and foremost of all the Palestinians, are interested in the peace process and in achieving peace they will return to the 10th round. It is expected, however, that new ideas and surprises will be formulated to allow the talks to restart. Perhaps the United States is aware that after what ensued in the ninth round, the peace process will end in utter failure if it does not intervene actively to push the process forcefully on the right path.

U.S. Role of 'Honest Mediator' in Talks Criticized

LD1605212893 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 16 May 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] It was not strange or surprising that the Palestine Liberation Organization officially announced its rejection of the American document that was presented to the

Palestinian delegation during the final moments, on the eve of the close of the ninth round of peace talks, on the grounds that it represents the Israeli Government's point of view in all its points.

What is astonishing and a surprise is the United States' announcement—which is contrary to the evaluations by the heads of the various Arab and Israeli negotiating delegations—that the ninth round achieved substantial progress and that America played the role of the honest mediator. They are two unfounded statements.

The honest mediator—that is true if we ignore American pledges concerning its playing the role of a full sponsor. In a peace process of such a degree of importance to the region and the world, it must found its stands on the resolutions of international legitimacy pertaining to the conflict and use the same standards in dealing with both negotiating parties.

That has not been reflected in the American document that was presented to the Palestinian side after intensive American consultations with Israel. The American document ignored the principle points of contention and overlooked the core topics in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It overlooked dealing with all topics that Israel wanted to put aside, starting with the issue of settlements, the Jerusalem issue, and the necessary linkage between the two stages—the transitional and permanent—in addition to a whole lot of focal points that would give the transitional phase clear political substance.

That would mean a clear bias in favor of Israel, while flagrantly ignoring the Palestinian position. Where is the honest mediation in all that.

As for the substantial progress, the official American media on that matter cannot cover the fact that all the Arab and Israeli delegation heads clearly announced that no substantial progress had been achieved. It also cannot cover the scope of failure and disappointment, not only for not achieving progress, but also because of the disappointment that the many promises that the United

States poured over the negotiating Palestinian side and Arab parties before holding the ninth round were not implemented and remained mere pledges. They have now been proven to be very different from the understanding of desire for progress or desire to get rid of the total biased policy in favor of Israel.

What is stranger than all that is that the United States—which raises the slogan of human rights whenever it pleases—despite the many promises and pledges made to improve conditions in the occupied territories before and during the round of negotiations—remained silent toward the continuous deterioration of conditions in the occupied territories. The fact of the flagrant violation of human rights and Palestinian suffering is stronger than all the promises and pledges. That stresses again the contradiction between what America announces in promises and what is continuously executed from Israeli practices on the ground of Palestinian reality.

The time has come for the United States to realize that its total bias in favor of Israel, its ignorance of and carelessness toward what is happening in the occupied territories, and its overlooking of international resolutions cannot serve the peace process. The result of continuance on such a course will be to form a principle obstacle toward comprehensive and just peace.

Six Delegation Members Banned From Traveling Abroad

TA1405172293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The authorities recently banned six administrative personnel in the Palestinian delegation to the multilateral peace talks from traveling abroad to participate in the rounds of talks in the refugees, economic development, and security and arms control committees. Our correspondent reports that the six administrative staff are: Ihab al-Ashqar, Sami Abu-Samahdanah, 'Abdallah Yaghi, Majid Abu-Shumalah, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Qitati, and Ahmad Muharib. This ban stemmed from security reasons and because the six are among the most prominent Fatah activists in the Gaza Strip.

Algeria**Tlemcen Public Prosecutor Assassinated**

*LD1605125393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 16 May 93*

[Excerpt] In Tlemcen, unidentified persons assassinated the Tlemcen court public prosecutor today. Nasreddine Bloud reports:

[Bloud] Mohamed Said, public prosecutor at Tlemcen court, was assassinated this morning at around 0745, near Ibn Msaieb School in Birouana district, as he was taking his children to school. Bullets were fired at the victim; he was taken to the hospital in a critical condition. He died later in the hospital. As soon as the attack took place the district was surrounded by the security services and investigations are under way. [passage omitted]

Three Terrorists Shot Dead by Security Forces

*LD1505225693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
2200 GMT 15 May 93*

[Excerpts] The National Gendarmerie Prefecture reports that at Abou el-Hasan in Tenes, 150 kms west of Algiers, today the security forces liquidated three people who were found to be behind the assassination of the two Gendarmerie men on Wednesday in Chlef. [passage omitted]

The same source said that the three plotters involved in the murder of the two Gendarmerie men were shot dead while they were in a hide-out.

The National Gendarmerie Prefecture also said that the operation which involved a search and interrogation of the persons who were behind the murder plot led to the detention of 20 more people.

Two Terrorists Killed in National Gendarmerie Ambush

*LD1605124693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 16 May 93*

[Excerpt] A statement from the National Gendarmerie, issued today, said that two terrorists were killed in the Guelta region, Chlef Province, yesterday in an ambush laid by the National Gendarmerie.

Abdelkader Osmani and Mohamed Sghir, the two terrorists, who were born in Mazouna, Ghelizane Province, were killed as they tried to escape. The gendarmes found medicines and foodstuffs in their possession.

The National Gendarmerie statement indicated that the president of Harchoune municipal delegation was also killed. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Kill Two Terrorists in Algiers 16 May

*LD1605225493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
2200 GMT 16 May 93*

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] It was learned from the Algiers security governorate that two terrorists were killed during a clash with police forces this evening in Kobba [Algiers suburb]. [passage omitted]

Police services said the terrorists were armed with Beretta automatic pistols.

In Constantine, the governorate security services, in collaboration with the national gendarmerie, recently arrested three terrorists who might have carried out the assassination of a policeman last March.

HSC To Resume Political Dialogue 25 May

*LD1505195393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic
1900 GMT 15 May 93*

[Text] The Higher State Council [HSC], chaired by Ali Kafi, met today. In line with the political program which Ali Kafi announced in his 8 May speech, the Higher State Council will carry out the next stage of national dialogue beginning Tuesday, 25 May.

With the aim of strengthening dialogue, the upcoming HSC meetings will take place in the form of groupings with the political parties on the one hand, and the societies on the other. This stage of meetings will allow the HSC and all the participants to clarify the contents of the program, which is bound to be unanimously [approved] and for which procedures for endorsement are to be fixed.

Meanwhile, following confirmations on 8 May, the HSC renews its readiness to hold dialogue with all the political and social forces, with the exception of those which practice terrorism or call for its use.

Ennahda Movement on 'Problems' in Kafi Speech

*LD1705082393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
0600 GMT 17 May 93*

[Text] A scientific seminar on the problem of alienation and contemporaneity in Algeria was yesterday opened by Cheikh Abdallah Djaballah, the leader of the Islamic Ennahda Movement, at Ibn Khaldoun Hall.

The seminar was attended by a large number of national journalists and followers of the movement. On the sidelines of the seminar, Messoud Boulatiour asked Mr. Abdallah Djaballah about his movement's evaluation of the Higher State Council chairman's [Ali Kafi] recent speech; he replied:

[Begin Djaballah recording] In short, the speech contained some positive aspects. Among the positive aspects is the stipulation on the issue of protecting individual

and collective rights, affirming party pluralism, and affirming the principle of changing roles.

Perhaps the largest of the positive aspects is putting the national plan forward for debate and discussion. But there are some problems, and I think the largest of these problems is that the speech did not deal in minute detail with the first and basic problem, which I find implied in the answer to the following question: to whom does Algeria belong today? To God and his religion, or to the West and its laws? To which does it belong today, to Arabism and Islam, or to alienation, secularism, and Frenchification?

I believe that answering that question with accuracy and clarity is an answer to the most important question in Algeria, and it is the one that we hope to deal with in the dialogue with the Higher State Council. [end recording]

Arab Fund Grants Loan To Purchase Foodstuffs

LD1505230193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Algeria has obtained a (\$2.8) million loan from the Arab Fund to finance the import of foodstuffs from Morocco. This was stated by the Arab Fund for Commerce, which is affiliated to the Arab Fund, in a statement issued in Abu Dhabi.

The Arab Fund for Commerce program, with a capital is \$500 million, was set up by the Arab Fund more than two years for the development of Arab commerce.

SONATRACH Official Discusses Gas Pipeline to Europe

LD1705030793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 May 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Algeria is entering Europe with a large gas project. The gas pipeline starts from Hassi R'Mel, passing through Morocco toward Spain and then Portugal. The beginning of the project was on 14 May at the Oujda meeting. Rachida Hamadi reports:

[Hamadi] The starting signal for the gas pipeline linking the Algerian area of Hassi R'Mel with Seville, passing through the Moroccan town of Oujda, was given on 13 May in the Moroccan town of Oujda, in the presence of the energy ministers of Algeria, Morocco, and Spain.

This pipeline is 1370 km long, of which 530 km runs through Algerian territory, 525 km through Moroccan territory, 45 km through Gibraltar, and then 270 km through Spain, before joining the European gas network.

The Morocco-Europe gas pipeline is scheduled to become operational in October 1995, with a capacity estimated at 10 billion cubic meters per year in the first phase. This volume will double in the second phase to reach 20 billion cubic meters annually, supplying France, Germany, and Portugal.

The cost of the project in its first phase is estimated at \$1.7 billion. The work of completing the project inside Algerian territory up to the borders is a 100-percent Algerian achievement.

[Announcer] As I mentioned in the headlines of the bulletin at 2000 today, our guest is SONATRACH Deputy Director General Bellani Malek. Welcome. Mr. Bellani, the Morocco-Europe gas pipeline project represents the embodiment and confirmation of a coordinated policy between the three countries of Morocco, Algeria, and Spain. Would you tell us whether all the conditions are right to execute this project?

[Bellani] Of course, the ceremony on 13 May has come to confirm what took place in Hassi R'Mel last year—in June, to be precise. The three ministers became sure of the project for which all conditions are right for execution. National institutions are charged with executing the project because it is a huge and complex project. It will place 530 km in Algeria in the first phase and five gas pressure stations in the second. In Morocco, there will be 525 km of pipeline and two pressure stations in the first phase, in Beni Mathar and Tangier. Through Gibraltar—in the sea—its length is 45 km. It continues to Seville, then to Cordoba.

[Announcer] Who is financing this project?

[Bellani] The project is being financed by the European Development Bank and with other loans that SONATRACH will accept from other international institutions.

[Announcer] What is the estimated cost of the project, approximately?

[Bellani] It is very difficult for me to give because we are still at the negotiating stage, particularly in connection with the execution of the project. I must affirm to you, however, that the cost of this project will not exceed \$850 million, nearly \$850 million, in foreign and national currencies.

[Announcer] What is the annual production capacity? How much will it provide to Europe?

[Bellani] The annual carrying capacity in the first phase will be about 7.2 billion cubic meters. This is not enough for the first phase. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] More than 7.2 billion cubic meters. If we calculate the financial revenue that we will receive from this project, how much would it be?

[Bellani] I must not contradict my colleagues about the commercialization, but it will be approximately \$300-350 million annually in the first stage.

[Announcer] We know that SONATRACH's strategy until 1996 is to export the equivalent of 60 billion cubic meters to the world in general. How is that?

[Bellani] SONATRACH is currently exporting more than 30 billion cubic meters. In 1996, with the completion of this project, it will increase by 7.2 billion. With the completion of the pressure station at Ain Naga near Biskra on the existing pipeline, there will be Geo-1 and Geo-2, which provide Italy with gas. The carrying capacity there will increase from 16.5 billion cubic meters to 24 billion. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Mr. Bellani, we thank you for coming at 2000, and perhaps we shall meet on another occasion.

Egypt

Ministry Denies Threatening Sudan Over Military Moves

NC1505083593 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 May 93
p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has denied sending threats to the ruling Sudanese regime concerning the recent Sudanese military movements near the common borders. Foreign Ministry sources noted that the allegations of the Sudanese regime were not true and stressed that Egypt has not sent any ultimatum or threats to Sudan through any channel. A responsible Foreign Ministry source said that Egypt's relations with the Sudanese people go beyond any fabricated crisis and are too strong to be affected by any irresponsible actions or decisions. Sources in the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo also denied that Egypt has warned Sudan against moving the Sudanese Armed Forces near the borders. Sudanese Minister of State Salah Ghazi and Interior Minister 'Abd-al Rahim Husayn had summoned representatives of the diplomatic missions in Khartoum to convey to them allegations about the massing of Egyptian troops in the Hala'ib triangle. Other sources in the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo claimed that Egypt has not abided by the agreement reached at the meeting of the joint committee in October to form a quick contact committee to contain any sudden dispute between the two countries. AL-WAFD has learned that 230 Egyptian extremists who have returned from Afghanistan are now being trained in farms near Omdurman in Sudan.

Consultative Committee Views 'Sudanese Provocations'

NC1605161193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1546 GMT
16 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—The Consultative Council's Committee on Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security issued a statement after a meeting in which it discussed Sudanese provocations today. The statement says that the continued provocations in which the Sudanese Government is engaging have reached a crucial point. The statement warns that the Sudanese Government's political and economic woes may drive

that government to extremes jeopardizing the durable relations between the two nations.

The statement says that the Sudanese Government has gone beyond the pale and that recently it has resorted to instigating the Sudanese public against Egypt and to reviving dormant hatreds.

According to the statement, the committee reviewed the Sudanese regime's provocations against Egypt. One of these provocations was the claim that Egypt prevented an oil tanker [bound for Sudan] from passing through the Suez Canal. Another was the charge that Egypt was involved in a coup attempt against the Sudanese regime. The latest was a statement by a Sudanese official to the effect that Sudan is declaring what he called general mobilization against Egypt in order to resolve the Hala'ib problem.

Government Refuses To Receive Iraqi Opposition Figures

NC1505163393 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 12 May 93
p 1

[Text] AL-AHALI has learned that the government has once again refused to receive leaders of Kurdish parties or allow the convocation of a political conference of the Iraqi opposition in Cairo. In rejecting requests of this nature, the government is reiterating its commitment to Iraq's territorial integrity and warning against involvement in any schemes leading to the partition of Iraq.

Israel's Beilin To Visit To Discuss Peace Talks

NC1605130593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1154 GMT
16 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin will visit Cairo at the beginning of June to deliver a message from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He will also deliver a message from Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa dealing with the results of the ninth round of peace negotiations and preparations for the 10th round, due to be held in Washington next month.

The Israeli Embassy's press secretary in Cairo stated that Beilin's visit is part of the contacts which the two countries' Foreign Ministries agreed to hold periodically to boost the peace process. The secretary stressed Egypt's effective role in this regard.

'Arafat To Visit 'Shortly' on Peace Process

NC1705091093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT
17 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources have affirmed that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Egypt shortly to meet with President Husni Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials to discuss

developments in the Middle East peace efforts and the outcome of the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, which concluded in Washington recently.

The sources told MENA that the visit will be in the context of the continuous coordination between the Palestinian and Egyptian leaderships to find a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem, restore Arab solidarity, and eliminate inter-Arab disputes.

The sources added that PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, will visit Cairo in the next few days to prepare for 'Arafat's visit and exchange views with the Egyptian leadership on various regional and international developments, particularly those related to the Palestinian problem.

President Mubarak Returns From 8-Day Gulf Tour

NC1605114093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned home this afternoon after an eight-day Gulf tour that took him to the Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and Saudi Arabia.

Comments on Trip

NC1605141593 Cairo MENA in Arabic GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has described his eight-day tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries as successful and said that he felt that these countries' leaders were responsive. In a statement to reporters accompanying him on his return to the homeland, he said that he and the GCC leaders exchanged views on all topics that "concern us and them."

Mubarak pointed out that the talks dealt with the issue of solidarity, pan-Arab security, Gulf security, the peace process, terrorism, and bilateral ties. Regarding bilateral relations, he said that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates invest in Egypt, noting that there are numerous joint projects, including several tourist enterprises in which the Gulf development funds participate.

Mubarak stressed that Egypt's policy is firm, noting that Egypt focuses on confronting terrorism and encouraging investment to create new jobs and improve the living standards of low-income people.

On the Damascus Declaration, Mubarak noted that the finance ministers of the member countries will meet in Doha on 18 May and the foreign ministers will meet in Abu Dhabi on 12 June.

Regarding terrorism, Mubarak pointed out that there is agreement with the leaders of the GCC countries on the need to confront policies that encourage terrorism. He

said that there is security cooperation with the Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia.

Mubarak said that he sent an invitation to Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Salvation Revolution Command Council to attend the African summit scheduled to convene in Cairo at the end of June.

Mubarak stressed that Egypt did not pressure the PLO to participate in the peace talks on the Middle East, noting that the efforts Egypt is making are aimed at assisting the PLO through consultations and contacts with various world leaders.

Further on Comments

NC1605180593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo from Riyadh this afternoon at the conclusion of his tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries. Upon his return, he said that his talks in the six GCC capitals focused on issues of Arab security, Arab solidarity, closing Arab ranks, and the regional political situation. In a statement to reporters who accompanied him aboard the plane, he said that the tour also dealt with the challenges and acts of terror facing the region. He stressed that Egypt's security is linked to the Arab Gulf countries' security, noting that the Gulf region's security is part of Egypt's.

Regarding the peace process in the Middle East, Mubarak stressed that Egypt is exerting intensive efforts to render the process successful. He noted that Egypt is trying to assist the PLO to support the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

On the internal situation, Mubarak said that big investment projects are being implemented in Egypt with the help of Arab brothers. He said that his tour was positive and underscored an identity of views between Egypt and these fraternal countries.

Iranian, Sudanese Attitude to Tour Viewed

NC1605151193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 May 93

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Razzaz: "Iran Watches President Mubarak's Gulf Tour Closely"]

[Excerpts] President Mubarak's Arab Gulf tour and his talks with the kings and amirs of the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries was well-timed and an effective response to the doubts cast by Tehran's rulers about Egypt's ability to support the Gulf sister states. [passage omitted]

Iran occupied Abu Musa, Tunb al-Sughra, and Tunb al-Kubra, three islands belonging to the United Arab

Emirates, using aggression. It is using terrorism to destabilize the Gulf countries before establishing total hegemony over them. We still remember the terrorism of Iran's hirelings in Algeria and its exploitation of religion to undermine Arab and Islamic countries. Iran made the same attempts in Egypt, Tunisia, and elsewhere using hired traitors whom it trained in terrorism and sabotage in bases located outside the Arab region, and regrettably, also inside Sudan.

Despite Iran's underhanded attempts to cast doubt on Egypt's ability to promote Gulf security and stability, the president's tour emphasized the following facts: First, the warm official and popular reception accorded to him in all the Gulf capitals and their media's declaration of appreciation and support for Egypt's and Mubarak's role in assisting the Gulf countries heightened the anger and hate felt by Tehran's rulers. This was illustrated by their intense, vicious attack on Egypt and Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Second, Omdurman Radio raved in a frenzy, launching vicious anti-Egypt and anti-Mubarak campaigns using the same style and phrases used by Iranian media to give the impression that Iran is not the only country that criticizes Egypt. The truth is that only two regimes, other than Tehran's, launch hate campaigns against Egypt: the Sudanese and the Iraqi regimes.

Third, hired terrorists in Egypt stepped up their crimes, killing several police officers and troops in al-Qusiyah and al-Badari in Asyut. Tehran and Omdurman radios termed these hideous crimes, denounced by the Egyptian public, as heroic acts by valiant Egyptian heroes. We cannot understand how treacherous murder can be called courageous. What is more serious is their linking these crimes with Islam. The linkage itself is a very serious crime by those who hide behind the cloak of Islam, which is in fact a religion conspicuously opposed to bloodshed.

Fourth, Mubarak's Gulf tour proved Egypt's ability to help the brothers and illustrated those brothers' trust in Egypt's immense capability to confront aggression, extremism, and treason and boost the security and stability of the fraternal Arab Gulf countries. Hence, Iran's watch over Mubarak's Gulf tour is bound to fill the hearts of Tehran's rulers with hate and sorrow.

Closed Trial for Defendants in al-Sharif Case

NC1505112193 Cairo MENA in English 1050 GMT
15 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 15 (MENA)—The Higher Military Court today decided that the trial of the defendants involved in the assassination attempt on the life of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and other terrorist crimes be held in camera.

The decision came in compliance with the request of the military prosecution which said that sittings held in

secret would preserve the public order especially as some papers published untrue news about the case.

Militants' Trial Postponed Due to Disturbances

NC1505122993 Paris AFP in English 1158 GMT
15 May 93

[Text] Hakestep, Egypt, May 15 (AFP)—The trial of Muslim militants charged with attacks on tourists and a bid to assassinate Egypt's information minister broke up in uproar on Saturday [15 May] when they denounced the judge as a butcher.

General Ahmad 'Abdallah, the presiding judge at the court in Hakestep military base near Cairo, adjourned the proceedings for an hour while order was restored.

The trial of the 10 defendants, plus four others tried in absentia, resumed behind closed doors at midday after the judge restored order and ejected journalists.

Some of the 14 are charged with an attempt to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif last month, and others are accused of bombings at tourist sites and the killing of a police officer.

The trial opened May 8.

Trial Resumed

NC1505165493 Paris AFP in English 1613 GMT
15 May 93

[Text] Hikestep, Egypt, May 15 (AFP)—The trial of Muslim militants charged with attacks on tourists and a bid to assassinate Egypt's information minister resumed Saturday, with the defendants condemning the judge as a "butcher" and disavowing allegiance to President Husni Mubarak.

In south Egypt, police meanwhile reported the death of a Muslim militant who died of wounds sustained in clashes Monday with the security forces. A police officer was killed in the attack.

As the hearings started, the 10 defendants present at the court in Hikestep military base near Cairo voiced outrage at General Ahmad 'Abdallah, the presiding judge, calling him a "butcher" and an "assassin".

Led by key defendant Hasan 'Abdallah Shalaqani, the militants also launched a violent verbal attack against Mubarak from their separate iron cages.

"We don't recognise Husni Mubarak or his laws. We only recognise shari'ah (Islamic law,)" they shouted.

Some defendants also charged they had been tortured during interrogation by the security forces.

The uproar prompted the presiding judge to adjourn the proceedings for an hour while order was restored.

The trial of the 10 defendants, plus four others tried in absentia, resumed behind closed doors at midday after the judge ejected journalists and ordered the evacuation of the suspects.

The 14 are charged with an attempt to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif last month, and are accused of bombings at tourist sites and the killing of a police officer.

They could face the death penalty if convicted. The trial opened May 8.

Mubarak, resorting to emergency laws in force since 1981, last year ordered the transfer of the trials of Muslim militants to military courts, which decide more quickly and hand down harsher sentences than civilian courts.

Sixteen death sentences have been passed by the High Military Court, seven in absentia, but none has been carried out.

More than 140 people, including three foreign tourists, have been killed in a fundamentalist campaign across Egypt since March 1992.

Defence lawyers meanwhile challenged the competence of the military court, charging that the presiding judge had sentenced to death in absentia last December Afghan war veteran Mustafa Ahmad Hamzah.

Sa'd al-Hasaballah, one of the lawyers, told AFP that judge 'Abdallah's name was on a hit-list of the extremist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah and therefore his verdict would be biased.

The lawyers also complained that two judges from the same court had barred them from attending some of the hearings in the trial last month of 49 Muslim militants who were accused of attacks against tourists.

The wife of one of the defendants, who declined to be named, meanwhile told AFP "those really responsible for the attack (against al-Sharif) are out of the country.

"Our brothers never plan an act of resistance before having ahead of time prepared their immediate getaway from Egypt," the woman, a graduate of the American University of Cairo, said.

Suspected Islamic militant Yasir Muhammad 'Atiyah died at the Asyut hospital, in southern Egypt, where he was being treated for wounds received Monday in clashes with police.

A police officer was killed and five other people, including 'Atiyah, were wounded in the fighting which broke out when police tried to arrest 'Atiyah and another man.

They were suspected of involvement in the murder last month of the deputy-chief of police in Asyut, General Ahmad al-Shimi, and two other officers. The other suspect escaped.

Libya

Sudanese Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive in al-Kufrah

LD1505142393 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio
Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Brother al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council and deputy prime minister of fraternal Sudan, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in al-Kufrah [in south-eastern Libya, 2,000 miles from Tripoli] at midday today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriya. The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, a number of officers of the armed people, the Sudanese ambassador to the Great Jamahiriya, the secretary and members of the Secretariat of the People's Congress and the People's Committee of the Basic People's Congress at al-Kufrah greeted him upon his arrival.

Industry Minister Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa; Dr. Ibrahim 'Ubaydallah, minister of commerce, cooperation and supply; Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, minister of state at the Presidency; and Sharif Ahmad 'Umar, deputy governor of the Northern Province, are accompanying Brother al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih.

Meeting With al-Qadhdhafi

LD1605164293 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio
Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received brother al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council and prime minister in sisterly Sudan, who is participating in the meetings of the ministerial body's 2d session for following up on the integration between the Great Jamahiriya and sisterly Sudan.

The meeting was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Ukrainian Delegation

LD1405144893 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio
Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 May 93

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution has received the high-ranking Ukrainian delegation, which is on a visit to the Great Jamahiriya. Yevhen Reshida, vice premier of the Ukrainian Republic, who is leading the delegation, gave the brother leader greetings from Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. He also reiterated his country's desire to establish solid and comprehensive cooperation with the Great Jamahiriya. [passage omitted]

Foreign Affairs Secretary Receives Russian Ambassador

LD1605165993 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] The brother secretary for foreign affairs at the secretariat of the General People's Congress this morning met with the Russian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriya. During this meeting, the prospects for cooperation between the Russian parliament and the GPC secretariat were examined and discussed.

Salvation Front Calls On Opposition To Unite

PM1705110393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 May 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Salvation Front: We Insist on a Democratic Alternative"]

[Text] London, Cairo, AL-HAYAH—The Libyan National Salvation Front [LNSF] has appealed to the international community "to help the Libyan people regain their freedom" and has urged all Libyan patriotic forces to join in promoting a democratic alternative in Libya.

In a statement issued yesterday at the conclusion of five days of meetings by its leadership, the LNSF said that "it studied a number of issues related to developments affecting the national cause at home and abroad as well as the front's program for action at various organizational, political, informational, and military levels."

It added that "it made a general assessment of the conditions and circumstances through which the national cause is passing in the light of local, regional, and international developments."

It also said that the reports it studied "confirmed that although (Libyan leader Mu'amar) al-Qadhafi pretends to change the conduct of his regime at the international level, trying by all means to restore international legitimacy to his regime in order to save it, and while he continues to go too far in mortgaging the interests, wealth, and future of all the Libyan people in an attempt to break his international isolation, the regime's practices, policies, and attitude toward the Libyan people have not changed."

In its statement, the LNSF said that "detailed reports about living conditions in Libya demonstrate that the Libyan people's suffering has doubled and reached its highest point during the past two years." It added that it possessed information that the Libyan regime "is preparing to escalate its plots against the patriotic opposition forces, especially the LNSF."

As regards the Lockerbie case, the Front held the Libyan regime responsible for it and condemned "the regime's procrastination and playing for time, which will only result in more harm to the Libyan people's interests."

The Front reaffirmed its "insistence on its objectives and determination to continue its struggle and alliance with all Libyan civilian and military patriotic forces at home and abroad."

It asserted that "the real interests of the international community are served by helping the Libyan people regain their freedom and right to free choice." It appealed to all Libyan patriotic forces to "appreciate the importance and seriousness of the circumstances through which Libya is passing and to join in creating a national constitutional democratic alternative that would fulfill our country's aspiration to freedom, honor, and fraternity."

In Cairo, a responsible Arab League source said yesterday that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid had sent an urgent note to the president of the UN Security Council requesting that flights of Libyan pilgrims be exempted from the air ban imposed on Libya under Security Council Resolution 731.

Morocco

French TV Interviews King Hassan

LD1605210493 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1655 GMT 16 May 93

[Interview with King Hassan II by announcer Anne Sinclair in the Royal Palace, Rabat, on 14 May; from the "Sept sur Sept" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Sinclair] [passage omitted] Good evening, Your Majesty. Thank you for receiving Sept sur Sept in the Royal Palace in Rabat at a time when Morocco is, according to all foreign observers, at a political turning point. It is Friday evening, and we are recording this program a few hours in advance. So could you, if you would, talk about the monarchy, so that the French can understand properly, what is here the subject of a real consensus, and what has very strong legitimacy here.

In a book published by Plon several weeks ago called "Memoirs of a King," you tell Eric Laurent who is interviewing you: What God has given me, only God can take away. So how do you reconcile this link that would appear to be holy with the desire to be a constitutional monarchy?

[Hassan] First of all, good day. I welcome you to Morocco, and through this program welcome to Morocco all those will watch this program, and I hope that it will please them. [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] [passage omitted, listing changes to Moroccan Constitution] I would like to know whether this evolution toward a modern political system corresponded to the evolution of Moroccan society or if for you it was essential to bring yourselves closer to a Europe with which you—we will speak of this later—want to have links?

[Hassan] If there has been such an advance in the Constitution, it is because I made the law, primarily, for the Moroccans, and I also thought that economic and social development was, in our day, becoming a very important factor in the country's life. That is why I think that constitutions should almost be called managers' or management constitutions.

[Sinclair] I use the term efficiency as you use this term management.

[Hassan] Yes, it is efficiency. [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] [passage omitted] When you organize a referendum on the new constitution—which we spoke about earlier—this referendum obtains a 99.96 percent turnout, and of these 92 percent vote yes. But the opposition parties were calling for people to abstain. Can we consider that abstention in this country is only 0.04 percent of votes, as this is what the figures say, and in this case does this not essentially allow one to ask oneself about the degree of democratic liberalization that you wish to obtain?

[Hassan] To be very frank, I hate the practice of awarding oneself good marks. If the constitution had been accepted by 51.5 percent, it would have applied to everybody.

[Sinclair] That is clear, and there would not even have been a shadow of a controversy.

[Hassan] No, not even a shadow of controversy, so why be masochistic and look for figures if they were not the real ones. But I will tell you something. Even the people who asked people to abstain, they did not physically prevent their supporters from voting. That can be proved.

[Sinclair] So nobody responded to them?

[Hassan] No. They knew that they had to adopt a position but I am sure and certain that many militants from the political parties went to vote. [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] Allow me, I am curious about this thing that has always puzzled all journalists regarding the Moroccan political system. You mentioned the Interior Ministry earlier. The interior minister is also the information minister, this is unthinkable back at home.

[Hassan] I will give you the secret. Unfortunately for information, this state of affairs will disappear when the next government is formed. As a matter of fact, the Information Ministry has lived rather like a positive parasite on the budget of the Interior Ministry. We don't have a ministry of orientation. But the Information Ministry was so reduced at the level of budget and staff that we would have stagnated. So from time to time, we shut our eyes on a common practice, which is budgeting slice by slice which we are forced to do by decree, as it is not done within the ministry by the minister. It is in this way that we have financed our RTM [Moroccan State Radio and TV Company] through our Interior Ministry.

[Sinclair] So now there will be a separate budget for the Interior Ministry?

[Hassan] Naturally. It is absolutely not in the sense of a ministry of orientation as we have seen in the Middle East or elsewhere. On the other hand, journalists have never had such frank language and such frequent meetings before they started to deal with this two-headed ministry.

[Sinclair] Earlier we talked about the future government. Can one imagine a Moroccan woman as minister? Is it possible?

[Hassan] It is possible, and as the saying in the legal jargon goes, anything that is not illegal and categorically illegal is authorized.

[Sinclair] What do you think yourself?

[Hassan] I think nothing can stop a woman from being a minister. [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] You have expressed the wish to improve the status of women here in Morocco. To what extent are you prepared to go regarding polygamy, the repudiation [of women by their husbands] with a simple statement, authorization for travel?

[Hassan] We have gone as far as possible. As far as I am concerned, only those things that are absolutely forbidden by the Koran and the Sunna are untouchable. Otherwise, everything can be adapted, because the religion of Islam is a religion which has evolved a great deal and which is evolving.

[Sinclair] But in the laws, I mean the law...

[Hassan] In practice, I am waiting for the answer of the Council of Women. They will answer me. I think the majority, if not all of them, will agree. One cannot repudiate a woman without justification and in her absence. I cannot ban polygamy, it is authorized, but we have set so many conditions that one must be suicidal or a masochist to opt for it! Concerning the custody of children, we have been just as fair and we have done what should be done. All we have done was to consecrate the freedom of occupation of the woman as consecrated by the Koran and the Hadith [prophet's sayings] since Islam has existed.

[Sinclair] Since September 1991 there has been a ceasefire between Moroccans and Sahraoui in the Western Sahara, which is claimed by the Moroccans. The United Nations has planned a referendum for self-determination, which in theory is to take place before the end of this year. Do you think it will take place, or should we fear a possible resumption of fighting?

[Hassan] I hope this referendum will take place. The Security Council could not commit a denial of the right of action. The referendum has been accepted by the Security Council, by the UN General Assembly, the procedures were unanimously decreed in 1990.

[Sinclair] Did you accept them?

[Hassan] We were not very satisfied, but we accepted them, because, heavens, we are not extremists on this subject.

[Sinclair] So what's the problem?

[Hassan] The problem is that the other side is unwilling to come to an agreement with us over the criteria which allow people, citizens, to regard themselves as entitled to vote.

[Sinclair] But nevertheless you think that between now and the end of 1993 it should be possible to hold this referendum?

[Hassan] Yes, if the United Nations acts logically, insofar as these criteria were drawn up by Perez de Cuellar, the secretary general, and unanimously accepted by the [Security] Council which in fact gave him their (?congratulations).

[Sinclair] Your Majesty, I don't want to get you to comment on Edouard Balladur's plan for economic recovery but on the arrival of Edouard Balladur in the government. Do you know him?

[Hassan] Yes, I do. I think he has approached his task very calmly, that he is facing a very important gamble, but what gives one confidence is that he does not give the impression of regarding it as a gamble. It is a duty. Anyone else in his place, I believe, should consider it as such, but he has his own way, which is (?reassuring). [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] You know that in France measures are being discussed to regulate the monitoring and residence of foreigners. That could be of concern to you, since there are 700,000 Moroccans living in France, the third community in France after the Portuguese and the Algerians. Do you understand why Europe should be trying to protect itself against immigration, or do you find it shocking?

[Hassan] It certainly does not shock me. I understand that Europe should want to protect itself against immigration, especially at a time of unemployment, and especially when unemployment is now becoming a kind of endemic disease which knows no frontiers. [passage omitted] However, I think that what might perhaps prevent emigration—for example, I am talking about Morocco—is that when investors come for small and medium-sized enterprises, or small and medium-sized industries, let them provide also for a transfer of technology. Then there would be training here in our country, which would prevent those same people from going to France. [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] Would you like them to be integrated in France? The actual principle of integration, are you for or against?

[Hassan] I would not even call it integration. I really don't want them to be the object of an attempt, because they will never be integrated.

[Sinclair] Do you think they don't want to be, or is it the French who deny it to them?

[Hassan] Even if they expressed the wish, they would not be able to be. It is possible [word indistinct] among Europeans; they are cut from the same cloth. In history, movement in Europe has been east to west, and so have human movements, religion, and lots of things. But here we have another continent, and you have nothing to do with them: They would be bad Frenchmen, they will be bad Frenchmen.

[Sinclair] So you are discouraging us from trying to integrate?

[Hassan] I am discouraging you as far as my people, the Moroccans, are concerned, from trying to divert them from their nationality because they will never be 100 percent French, I can assure you of that.

[Sinclair] Concerning fundamentalism, we know that you are fighting it and you fight against all kinds of fundamentalism, as you say. I would like to ask you what are your weapons? Are they religious weapons, since you are the commander of the faithful and you can say, no one is more of a Muslim than me? Or are they weapons of economic development, to be more precise, in relation to what you were talking about a while ago?

[Hassan] As far as Morocco is concerned, conventional weapons are not the only ones. There is this very important weapon which is the fact that the king is the commander of the faithful. But this is not enough. The causes of fundamentalism are not numerous, but they are very dangerous. First, there is a very big tendency toward laicity or a tendency to forget that we are Muslims. We are witnessing this situation in some Muslim countries. This has led to fundamentalism. The single party system has often led to fundamentalism. This because—one should say one thing—the classical European political parties have become political parties with a program and not with ideology, since Marxism no longer exists. On the other hand, for the Muslims, Islam is a marvellous ideological program which once it is wrapped in politics, becomes fundamentalism. So the single party system is one of the particularly dangerous causes of fundamentalism; it creates fundamentalism.

[Sinclair] So Morocco shows good resistance to fundamentalism, unlike your neighbor Algeria. In fact, how are your relations with Algeria?

[Hassan] I will tell you one thing, and I say it with complete honesty, and I hope this honesty will be noticed. One of the less happy days of my life as a man in authority was yesterday. If yesterday we were still within the norms of the historical brotherhood, we would, President Ali Kafi and I, have inaugurated the work of the Maghreb gas pipeline together. I imagined

myself on the Algerian side of the border and President Ali Kafi on the Moroccan side of the border, him digging the Moroccan soil and me digging the Algerian soil.

[Sinclair] Was it possible to do that?

[Hassan] I regret that it could not be done.

[Sinclair] Why?

[Hassan] I think when a couple's quarrels do occur—because between Morocco and Algeria it is like a couple's quarrels, they are noisy and passionate—one should never say why you have done this to me and why I have done this to you; I think it is time to go back to the status quo ante, that is, to the brotherly relationship, and I insist on saying that as far as Algeria is concerned I don't want fundamentalism nor the Islamic Salvation Front or anything else. I wish Algeria good order, prosperity, and stability. This is as beneficial for Morocco as for our neighbors.

[Sinclair] The Moroccan economy interests us for many reasons since France is Morocco's main foreign customer, supplier, and investor. You have been applying austerity measures for 10 years, it is called a cultural adjustment program, and it brought results since you recorded an annual growth rate of around 5 percent, an influx of foreign investments, a debt in the process of being settled, and congratulations from the IMF. So there is a real economic take-off in Morocco accompanied, as is often the case, by a high social cost.

[Hassan] Indeed. I believe, as I said earlier, that countries will face or come to grips with an hour of truth, then they will have to be as well armed as possible. We could not remain in a metaphysical debate by asking ourselves which came first, the chicken or the egg. This is without end. In these structures, in this restructuring, there is no miracle, there is no quick fix. There are methods to be followed, naturally they have huge social costs.

[Sinclair] Please excuse me for interrupting you, but would you accept that today the poor are probably slightly less poor but the rich much richer, or is this not really true? Has the gap widened?

[Hassan] Yes. Not because the rich became richer but because the rich do not pay their taxes.

[Sinclair] How is this possible?

[Hassan] The Moroccan, the rich Moroccan is a very bad taxpayer.

[Sinclair] Are you unable to collect taxes?

[Hassan] We will do that, but I am very anxious to see this as one of the crusades of the next government, it will be one of the main tasks of the next government, whatever its political color. When taxes are not paid, increased expenditures result in reduced revenues. This is why some rich Moroccans are richer than before.

[Sinclair] It is often said—I do not know if this is a cliché or not—that Morocco represents for Europe what Mexico represents for the United States, this is a way to ask you if your future is in Africa and in Maghreb or is it in a ever stronger link with Europe, and precisely which kind of link with Europe do you wish?

[Hassan] First, I believe that Morocco is a remarkable country, there are remarkable features, among them at the opening of the Mare Nostrum a gate and one of its pillars is Morocco, so it cannot go unnoticed. This provoked a lot of envy, and this is the reason why we always fought for our independence, but I will say no more on this.

[Sinclair] When you say Mare Nostrum, this is really with the intention of saying that the Mediterranean is surrounded by a certain number of countries from southern Europe and northern Africa, which have a common future, you said so yourself.

[Hassan] A common future. Naturally, it would be difficult to say, to define precisely what the nature and the intensity of these links will be. I wish they will become stronger while Europe and Morocco become stronger, meaning that they are flexible and perfectly adapted to the situation of both sides. In short, a partnership, I do not want to be pulled behind, I want partnership, I do not want assistance since it would make me lazy, besides, we are a proud country able to achieve something. A properly designed, properly decided partnership is, I believe something important. [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] Do you consider today that the establishment of a state based on law in Morocco is an irreversible process?

[Hassan] Not only is it an irreversible process, but in my opinion, the more freedoms one gives, the more must those freedoms be respected. But today, with poor education, with criminality, with drugs, with the breakdown of the family, every day we are giving birth to destroyers rather than to builders of society. Now, this society based on law must live and survive. That is why, the more Morocco becomes a society based on law, the more vigilant I must be about preserving the society based on law.

[Sinclair] The latest Amnesty International report of last month still puts in the hundreds the number of people who have disappeared and whose families have no news of them today. This report formally asks you to release them. How do you want to reply to Amnesty?

[Hassan] First, I say to Amnesty International that it is an old firm, completely outdated and which no longer serves anything. It was created by an embittered Irishman then it was taken over by left-wing movements until Russia made the deal with President Carter in Helsinki on human rights. Amnesty International has served as a Trojan horse in this affair. Amnesty International is not consecrated by anybody, has not received the blessing from anybody, neither a good or a bad fairy

was over its cot when it was born. I don't understand why it sticks its nose in our affairs.

[Sinclair] It is a non-governmental organization internationally recognized by all countries, since it has denounced torture and abuse in all countries, including communist countries.

[Hassan] As far as I am concerned, it is no longer respectable since it has lied. I am ready for it to try me if what I say is false. I accept the trial, my country accepts the trial, but it has to come and prove that there are hundreds of prisoners, let it come and prove it and let it bring in the best lawyers in the world.

But if it turns out that it has told lies, for years, then it needs to say to itself that people could demand that it be punished.

[Sinclair] There is a Human Rights Committee in the United Nations which looked at Morocco in 1990, and asked where Tazmamart and Kelaat Ngouna were, Kelaat des M'Gouna which is a detention center...

[Hassan, interrupting] Kelaat des M'Gouna is a tourist center, since it is the capital for roses. Tazmamart did indeed exist.

[Sinclair] According to this UN report, there was a secret detention center at Kelaat des M'Gouna.

[Hassan] Kelaat des M'Gouna is the rose capital. They are not very familiar with the geography of Morocco.

[Sinclair] There can be detention centers in places which are ...

[Hassan, interrupting] No, no, no. No, no. Impossible.

[Sinclair] Fine. But when they demanded where Tazmamart was, the Moroccan authorities replied that this detention center was not on the list of the Ministry of the Interior. Since then, Tazmamart has been razed to the ground.

[Hassan] (?They went) to see.

[Sinclair] So it is the limit to [changes thought], indeed, to come to see.

[Hassan] Because, really, Tazmamart did not have—I won't say it did not have any point, it had an existence and a point. Since Tazmamart no longer has a point, since the people have been released, we had nothing to do with this old building, so we knocked it down. Quite simply. It was not to sweep it under the carpet, but it had become useless in the new dispensation, so we knocked it down.

[Sinclair] Just a word—since you hope and you say: We are ripe for democracy, everything must be transparent today—just a word to finish about this difficult past, about the torture which was denounced here.

The whole world saw the Bourequat brothers, broken, after 18 years spent at the Tazmamart prisoners' camp. We saw Abraham Sarfaty leaving prison after 18 years. Incidentally, his autobiography written with his wife Christine will be published next week. I have met a son of a missing person called Belkacem Ouzzane, who disappeared 20 years ago the very day of his release by the military tribunal at the Kenitra prison. Twenty years ago, this man...

[Hassan, interrupting] Twenty years ago there were not trials but (?military tribunals). We are in '97.

[Sinclair] We are in '93. It was in '73 that this man disappeared and nobody has heard of him since. The missing person is a fact in Morocco according to reports which you have been disputing a while ago. But you say this will never happen in my country in the future?

[Hassan] I say never this again, but I say, especially not the tiniest bit of this again, because I dispute the rest on the ground of numbers. I don't dispute the fact, but to elevate me from the rank of semi-wholesale trader to that of wholesale trader... I am not a wholesale holder of prisoners!

[Sinclair] That is, you say there have been exactions but not as many as one reads about.

[Hassan] Yes, but not as many as it is said. [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] We talked about elections a while ago. There is a man who has become one of the symbols of the opposition today. He is Noubir El Amaoui, secretary general of the main trade union of this country, the CDT, who has been sentenced to two years in prison for insult and defamation against the government. In addition to the heavy sentence, don't you think it was a mistake to make a martyr out of him?

[Hassan] It is not up to me to pass a judgement. The judge thought there was defamation. He has thus sentenced him according to law and regulations. This gentleman could have rejected the sentence and appealed, but he did not. He could have asked for pardon, he did not.

[Sinclair] Would you have pardoned him?

[Hassan] If he asks, we will see. I was told that his health has deteriorated a bit. The doctor went to get him and take him to the Avicenna hospital. He refused in writing and preferred to remain in prison. He is the first sick prisoner I know who prefers to remain in prison. It is his way of seeing things, but his case is a legal case. I don't see how he fits in this context.

[Hassan] Being secretary general of a trade union movement does not put you above the law.

[Sinclair] And the severity of the sentence?

[Hassan] Madam, it was the minimum. Two years for defamation, calling the ministers robbers, and in a

foreign, Spanish, paper. In EL PAIS. I really would have liked it if had brought me proof. It is up to the slanderer to bring proof. It would have enabled me to purge my government.

[Sinclair] So you are saying to him now: Ask for pardon, and I will grant it. Bring me the proof.

[Hassan] I am not telling him to ask for pardon. I am saying that this gateway (?exists) and that he has not used it. [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] The last question on this subject: Your majesty, can the Oufkir family leave Morocco today?

[Hassan] [passage omitted] We have even found the chance for the family to go to Canada, and the Canadian government—I still have the letter—wrote to me and said: What is this poisoned chalice you are giving us? Could you not choose somewhere else? [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] Can Madame Oufkir have a passport and leave tomorrow?

[Hassan] If she asks for one, she can have it and go.

[Sinclair] Your Majesty, let's go straight to the Israeli-Arab negotiations. One stage ended this week, but did not come out with a visible joint document. One has the impression that everyone is talking to each other today, but peace is coming no nearer. You have been familiar with the problem for a long time, since 1956. For 15 years you have spared no efforts for peace. Would kind of initiative could you take today? Would this not in fact be the right time?

[Hassan] Initiatives in this area could only be material ones, in the form of papers, of projects.

[Sinclair] I was thinking of an invitation to Rabin and to 'Arafat to come here to Rabat.

[Hassan] I don't rule it out, but the time is not ripe. Having said that, I am extremely worried because on the one hand you feel that things are being given with one hand and taken away with the other, and on the other, the Palestinian movement, the PLO—and in reality this is the one negotiating in Washington—finds itself being overwhelmed by another Palestinian resistance movement, a radical one, which is against any negotiation, but favors the strong-arm way, for fighting. I am afraid that if this atmosphere lasts, an atmosphere of hesitation by the Israelis, and an atmosphere of suspicion by the Palestinians, I am afraid that, as in many cases, the hopes that have been raised might have a very negative reaction on the future. [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] A lot was hoped for from these negotiations, and they seem to be getting bogged down, stage by stage.

[Hassan] In the matter of these negotiations, there are two elements that have to be appreciated. Results must be obtained as soon as possible, [words indistinct] the

short term. The fruit will come in the medium and long term. But we have to get a harvest now. [passage omitted]

[Sinclair] The status of Jerusalem today, or rather tomorrow: How do you envisage it?

[Hassan] What was the status of Jerusalem before the occupation of the '67 war? In Jerusalem, one part was in the hands of the Israelis, and one part in the hands of the Jordanians, including the Muslim and Christian holy places. It had been like that for centuries. And when there was the '67 war, there was the total occupation of Jerusalem.

[Sinclair] Under the previous status, the Israelis did not have access to their holy places.

[Hassan] Yes, right. The Arabs and the Muslims—because it is not only Arabs in this matter, it concerns all Muslims, it is a religious matter, it is exactly like the Wailing Wall for example, it is not a matter of who is in possession, but [word indistinct] all those who have embraced the Jewish religion, it belongs to them. We are not asking for the Jewish holy places, we simply ask that the Muslim holy places return to us, so we can maintain them, restore them and guarantee prayers and worship. That's all we are asking. So we are asking for the part of Jerusalem that belongs to us.

If we are told something else, we will see. I think the previous status will be difficult to attain.

I think that it is essential that we tell ourselves that what was taken by violence cannot be regarded as definitive. So the Muslim parts of al-Quds [Jerusalem] must be returned to us. That is the minimum we are owed.

[Sinclair] I notice in what you are saying, you are limiting the area to...

[Hassan, interrupting] Al-Quds al-Sharif for us, is where there are religious places for Muslims. You can't, [changes thought]. (?well, we will see).

[Sinclair] Your Majesty, Bosnia. Bosnia is a major problem in Europe today, and I imagine it is also a problem for you. Faced with the encirclement of the Bosnian Muslims, faced with ethnic cleansing, would you favor military intervention? Since that is how things are today, that is the way the problem is being raised.

[Hassan] I would favor any intervention of any kind, of any sort, to put an end to this awful massacre. People talk of Nazis; I think there is no difference between them. There are as many concentration camps, women being disembowelled, the intentional insemination, as they say, of Muslim women by non-Muslim semen, it is terrible.

[Sinclair] Abuses by Serbs and Croats...

[Hassan] [words indistinct] If the Europeans are hesitating to use their army, I think it is because they still

recall that Hitler came a cropper over Yugoslavia, sending in division after division. They are afraid of getting bogged down.

[Sinclair] Because they also have soldiers, and France in particular is very heavily involved with its peace-keeping forces.

[Hassan] But many more are needed. And there are countries which are already hostage, because their soldiers are already there inside. What I would say to the Serbs and the Croats, is that in a generation's time I would not like to be the son or grandson of a Serb or a Croat, because they could have applied to them what Agrippina said to Nero: And among the peoples in the future your name will remain the most terrible insult to the most terrible tyrants. I would not want to be in their place. It is a tribal problem.

[Sinclair] A tribal war?

[Hassan] Yes.

[Sinclair] Your Majesty, you have reigned for 32 years with turmoils and difficulties. We have talked today about your determination to build a state of law today in Morocco. Do you think things will be easier for your son, the Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed?

[Hassan] I don't wish things to be easier for him, because if things are easier it means he is not needed. I hope things will be difficult for him because it proves that this monarchy is needed and that he is the first worker of the Kingdom.

[Sinclair] Thank you, Your Majesty for having participated in this Sept sur Sept, and thank you for having received us in Rabat.

Sudan

Nigerian 4-Country Peace Summit Proposal Turned Down

NC1405135093 Paris AFP in English 1302 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 14 (AFP)—Sudan has turned down a Nigerian proposal for a four-country summit to relaunch stalled peace talks with southern rebels, the Egyptian [as received] paper Al-HAYAH reported here Friday as the talks were again adjourned.

It said Nigeria's onetime interior minister Tunji Olagunju, chairman of the peace talks in the Nigerian capital Abuja, had in the past two days visited Sudan, Kenya and Uganda with the suggestion that they set up a summit with Nigeria.

According to diplomatic sources quoted by the paper, the military junta in Khartoum would have been required to make concessions on security matters and the issue of enforcing shari'ah, the strict Moslem code of law.

Unidentified western parties were behind the idea of the summit, Al-HAYAH said.

The Sudanese government turned down the proposal on the grounds that it exceeded the terms of reference of the current negotiations and was intended to put pressure on the government, the paper said.

Government spokesman 'Ali al-Hajj complained that an attempt to settle the problem of the civil war outside the framework of direct talks was an infringement of Sudanese sovereignty and thus to be rejected, Al-HAYAH reported.

In Abuja, where the parley has been bogged down since April 26, both sides warned Friday that a negative reaction to Nigeria's latest mediation bid could scupper the talks for the time being. A delegate with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said Olagunju's report on his mission would be decisive for what happened next.

Delegates met for barely 30 minutes before adjourning until Monday, when an ad hoc committee is to report on areas of agreement and disagreement. Whether to carry on with the conference would be decided then. SPLA sources said they were pessimistic about the talks continuing.

Nigeria's military ruler General Ibrahim Babangida voiced his displeasure with the lack of progress at a meeting on Thursday with Sudanese government delegation chief Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, sources in the president's office said.

The latest disagreement at the talks came on Thursday when the government side turned down an SPLA suggestion that observers from the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity sit in on sessions of a committee discussing a north-south shareout of Sudan's mineral, agricultural and other resources.

The government objected to having "foreigners" involved in a purely internal Sudanese matter.

Further Reportage on Abuja II Peace Talks

Revenue Committee Submits Report

AB1405133093 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] The technical committee on revenue allocation in Sudan today submitted its report to the Sudanese peace conference taking place in Abuja. The two parties to the conflict have agreed in principle on the establishment of a revenue allocation commission but differ on the composition of the commission. Correspondent Amos Dunia, who is covering the peace talks, has details of the report:

[Dunia] At the resumption of sitting at 1000 this morning, the Khartoum government delegation was notably absent. The acting chairman of peace conference, Brigadier General

Lawrence Onoja, later announced that the government delegation to the peace talks had requested for time to allow for more consultation.

At the resumed sitting at 1200, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] and the Movement delegation proposed that the revenue commission should have Nigeria as chairman while, the OAU and UN be observers in addition to equal number of representatives from both sides of the conflict. This position was rejected by the government delegation on the ground that it would amount to interference in Sudan's internal affairs. Mr. Abdul Wahab al-Afandi, spokesman for the Khartoum government, told NTA News that they will only accept Nigeria as observers:

[Begin al-Afandi recording] And they can't bring foreigners every time to people [who] have disagreement. There must be institutions in this country to resolve the institutions independently of foreign intervention otherwise this country has no reason to exist again if it is run by foreigners. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

[Dunia] Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial of the SPLA and the Movement explained that the insistence of the group to have a Nigerian as chairman of the revenue commission is based on the mutual mistrust by both sides to the conflict:

[Begin Nhial recording] These things have to do with the history of the country. The profound mutual distrust that has bedeviled the search for peace all these years in Sudan is simply the reason that prompts us to ask for such guarantees. [end recording]

[Dunia] A conference source told NTA News that all unresolved committee issues are referred to the elders' committee for detailed discussion before they are brought to the full house for likely adoption. The technical committee on revenue allocation and the committee on the judiciary, as well as the elders committee were set up by the acting chairman of the second Abuja peace talks on Sudan, Brig. Gen. Lawrence Onoja, last Monday [10 May]. A close source to the peace conference told NTA News that the strategy is to allow the two parties to the Sudanese conflict discuss among themselves more freely. Discussion on the elders and judicial committees' reports continues tomorrow at the full conference session.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the conference, Dr. Tunji Olagunju, has returned home after delivering special messages on Sudan to the Khartoum government and the SPLA-SPLM leaders.

'Breakthrough' on Committee

AB1405190493 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1550 GMT
14 May 93

[Text] Abuja, 14 May—The general session of the Abuja II peace talks yesterday heard the report of the economic committee during which the two sides agreed on the

formation of a national income distribution committee. However, there was no agreement on the structure of the committee.

Ustadh 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Afandi, member of the government delegation, said in a press statement after the session that the government side believes that the committee should be formed from the two sides and that Nigeria should be present as an observer, while Garang's group believes that Nigeria should chair the committee, which would include representatives of the two sides. Al-Afandi added that agreement on [word indistinct] with Nigeria represented in the committee as an observer had been agreed upon since the Abuja I talks.

Meanwhile, a member of the Nigerian mediation team, [Tunji] Olagunju, stressed that a breakthrough was finally achieved regarding the formation of a national income distribution committee. The general session will continue its work on 14 May at 1200.

SPLA Commander Kuwwah Interviewed

PM1405135193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
13 May 93 p 7

[Interview with Commander Yusuf Kuwwah, commander of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army forces in the Nubian Mountains in Western Sudan and deputy head of that army's delegation to the Sudanese peace negotiations, by Nizar Daww-al-Na'im in Abuja; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Daww-al-Na'im] Why did you rebel against the regime? What did you want?

[Kuwwah] The media claimed that my mutiny was due to personal reasons and differences over some post, but my mutiny against the Sudanese regime began when I began going to school. Of course, to me that regime continues to this day despite the change of shape and name. The reason for my mutiny was the injustice to my people (the Nubian tribes in western Sudan), particularly their treatment as second class citizens.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Why did you join the [Sudanese] People's [Liberation] Army [SPLA] which is led by John Garang? That is a southern movement concerned with a specific problem.

[Kuwwah] First of all, we have injustice in common. Second, what the SPLA mainly calls for is cultural and ethnic diversification in the country and a new authority based on that instead of asking the different ethnic nationalities to give up their rights. The SPLA is not only concerned with the south and its aim is not only to solve the problem of the south but also to liberate all Sudan and set up a secular regime within the framework of a unified state. [passage omitted]

[Daww-al-Na'im] What do you expect to achieve from the current Sudanese peace negotiations in Nigeria?

[Kuwwah] We joined the [Sudanese] People's [Liberation] Movement [SPLM] [SPLA is the military wing of the SPLM] which is in favor of a unified Sudan. We still believe that is the ideal solution in the context of a federal system which gives real powers to the provinces and respects the different [ethnic] characters in the country. We also want our own province in our region with its distinguishing features.

The situation might change considerably as a result of the government's stance and its insistence on imposing the Islamic Shari'ah. I want to emphasize here that we very unhappy about the divisions within the SPLM. I do not want to defend Garang but I am sure that he really cares a lot about the country's unity but the circumstances of the split forced him to talk about a confederation because, to upstage him, the breakaway group called for the secession of the south. Of course, Khartoum has been intransigent and so the options were an Islamic state as advocated by Khartoum or secession as advocated by al-Nasir group, and that is why the confederation formula was chosen [by Garang].

[Daww-al-Na'im] There have been reports of massacres in the Nubian Mountains in the recent battles with the government's army.

[Kuwwah] We recently had a confrontation with the army. Let me say here that, although (Lieutenant General 'Umar) al-Bashir's government announced a six-months cease-fire in the south, the battles in the Nubian Mountains have not stopped since the present government assumed power. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir believes that the mutiny in the west of the country must be crushed and that it must not be allowed to expand toward the north. Since the split [within the SPLM], the government has been concentrating on the Nubian Mountains and has been launching continuous campaigns and leaving the southerners to fight among themselves because of that split. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir has repeatedly said that he has decisively settled the mutiny in the Nubian Mountains but that is not true.

In 1992 Khartoum changed its policy and launched offensives to exterminate the villages and populations of our areas and cut off our supply routes. We get food from the people of that region and our forces have increased because the people of that region have joined us. We faced these campaigns and seized supplies and ammunition.

I want to confirm here that we killed Iranians in these battles and captured some Iranian weapons. That did happen, whatever the government says.

[Daww-al-Na'im] But you have not produced any evidence of that so far. Do you have any evidence?

[Kuwwah] We will prove what we say at the appropriate time.

[Daww-al-Na'im] What about the extermination campaigns you mentioned?

[Kuwwah] The government changed its strategy and used a plan meant to starve us and isolate us from our people. It also forced civilians to move out of the region by burning farms and villages and carrying out mass eviction operations. As we depended on the region, that campaign affected our position and some Nubian groups surrendered but all that failed to achieve the government's objective because we are still here and we are still effectively strong.

From the middle of last year until now, the government has killed over 6,000 innocent civilians. [passage omitted]

[Daww-al-Na'im] Many of the people of the Nubian Mountains do not agree with the method, your method, of taking up arms.

[Kuwwah] I tell them: What have you achieved for your ethnic nationality by continuing to be part of the ruling Arab establishment in Sudan? The regime only negotiates with those who take up arms.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Khartoum claims that you contributed to the spread of Christian preaching in the region despite the fact that you are a Muslim. What is your defense?

[Kuwwah] They forget that they were the ones who started it by turning the conflict into a religious conflict and declaring jihad [holy war] against us. We do not have a religious problem in the region. In the Nubian Mountains you find Christians, Muslims, and agnostics in the same family. I stress that it was the government which brought religion into the conflict. [passage omitted]

Garang Faulted for U.S. Trip

EA1405220993 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Dr. 'Ali al-Haji Muhammad, the official spokesman of the government delegation at the Abuja negotiations with the rebel Garang's movement, has said that what Garang is doing at present, namely holding lectures in the United States under an academic veil, in which he is seeking the internationalization of the Sudanese issue and foreign intervention, and his description of the Abuja negotiations will lead to a dead-end that is incompatible with the government stand, which has put emphasis on the negotiations since their inception and in which it has participated with a large delegation which includes the legislative and executive leaders and a number of governors and men of the Islamic and Christian religions. He said: Yesterday, we briefed the Nigerian president, Ibrahim Babangida, on these irresponsible stands by Garang. He added, in his statement to our reporter in Abuja, that President Babangida took this issue seriously.

Dr. Muhammad said Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, leader of the government delegation, had assured the Nigerian president during his meeting with him yesterday evening, in which he handed over a message from 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command

Council and the Council of Ministers, that the war in the South has become a tribal one and that a tribal war is taking place the areas in which the rebel Garang is asking for foreign intervention—Kongor and other areas. This tribal war cannot be dealt with at the level of the United States and the UN Security Council.

Abuja II Talks Adjourn Til 17 May

AB1405163493 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The Sudanese peace conference in Abuja has adjourned. It will reconvene on Monday to enable the committee to listen to major issues not yet resolved. Issues such as allowing foreign observers to monitor the cease-fire agreement and the [word indistinct] of southern Sudan are yet to be ratified. Other areas being (considered) are the shari'ah, as well as [words indistinct] in southern Sudan. Spokesmen for the various factions commented on the Abuja conference. According to the spokesman for the SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] delegation, Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial, the talks failed because the true issue of shari'ah could not be resolved. The spokesman for the Sudanese Government delegation, Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, had the belief that the Abuja conference was a major achievement as both sides could now talk to each other.

Sudan Team Leader Comments

EA1505143793 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, the official spokesman of the government's delegation in the peace negotiations, has stated that the question of the south's relationship with religion and whether the south will be composed of one state, three states or more has not yet been solved. He expressed his belief that it was not possible to solve this question soon because it was linked to problems of minority and majority.

He explained what there was another problem concerning the definition of the south, in that the other side had submitted a new definition which went beyond the inheritance of the colonial era, and which tried to change the borders of the south. He affirmed that this could not easily come about. He also mentioned the issue of security measures and amendments.

Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad said, on 17 May, we will specify the points of agreement and difference. Mr. Olu Sanu, a member of the Nigerian mediation team, stated that three weeks after the beginning of the conference, the time was now right for evaluation in order to know the outstanding issues. The heads of delegations' committee will present its report on 17 May for discussion. Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad said: We will decide after studying the report whether the negotiations will continue or not. He added that the direct discussions had increased trust between the two sides.

[Khartoum SUNA in English in an Abuja-dated item at 0915 GMT on 15 May adds: "The government delegation considers that the current southern states (should) remain during the transitional period, while Garang's faction views that the south should remain one region, Dr. Muhammad said. Exploration should be of the state authorities, as we think that should be of the federal government authorities as national resources in the federal states worldwide are owned by the whole people, the government delegation spokesman added. (sentence as received) They also say that the two armies of the government and the rebels should remain separated, a matter we also oppose, he said.

["Garang's faction delegation presented a new map for southern Sudan which includes Rusayris, southern Blue Nile, Nuba Mountains and southern Darfur, he said. All these issues have no relation with religion and shari'ah (and) should be regarded within the context of the whole issue, Dr. Muhammad noted. He spoke on a recent tour carried out by the chairman of the Nigerian mediation team, Dr. Tunji Olagunju to Khartoum, Nairobi and Kampala in a bid to hold a summit meeting on Sudan. We have been surprised by the step as we had already refused a similar proposal, for it internationalises the issue and constitutes an obstacle to the peace process, Dr. Muhammad concluded.

["Garang's faction spokesman Nhial Deng Nhial, touched on the importance of Monday's (17 May) session, saying shari'ah should be reconsidered in order to push negotiations forward."]

Sudan's Muhammad on Talks Progress

EA1505063093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Dr. Tunji Olagunju, chairman of the peace talks between the government and Garang's faction of the rebel movement, has called on the heads of delegations' committee to prepare a report over the weekend on the points agreed upon and the points of difference in readiness for the 17 May session.

Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, the official spokesman of the government delegation, has said that the heads of the delegations' committee will convene extensive meetings during this period, to include the members of the two delegations in order to determine the points of difference and agreement. He said the report to be presented by the heads of the delegations' committee from the two sides to the chairman of the conference on 17 May would determine whether the talks should be adjourned or not. He explained that the chairman of the conference had pointed out that the talks should be adjourned.

Dr. Muhammad said that the direct talks between the government and Garang's faction had made a step forward with the two sides sitting in direct meetings for the first time in 10 years of war. He said agreement had been reached in principle on a number of items, including the cease-fire. He said, from our side, we have

rejected the presence of any foreign observers whereas the other side requests international observers for the cease-fire.

'Technical Committees' Meet

EA1505213293 Khartoum SUNA in English 1745 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Abuja, 15 May (SUNA)—The technical committees of the Sudanese Government delegation and Garang's faction at the Abuja peace talks resumed sessions Saturday [15 May] morning to define the points agreed upon by the two sides prior to submitting them to the meeting of the delegation heads before their presentation to the general session next Monday.

SUNA reported on Saturday the delegation heads' committee had held a long meeting on broadening the points agreed upon by the two sides.

Garang Arrives 17 May for Talks

AB1705082293 Paris AFP in French 0759 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Abuja, 17 May (AFP)—Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA, southern guerrilla movement) arrived in Abuja this morning where he joined his movement's delegation at the peace talks with the Khartoum government. These talks have been going on for about 20 days now but they seem deadlocked in spite of diplomatic initiatives by the Nigerian mediators.

Official Says Relief Aid to South Continues

EA1505123093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Dr. Muhammad al-Aghbash, assistant relief aid commissioner, has confirmed the continuation of operations to transport relief aid by land and air to affected areas in the south of the country. This is being carried out within the framework of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission's plans which are to see to the needs of the affected areas in the south.

He added that a train carrying 1,000 tonnes of relief aid arrived in Aweil three days ago, and was unloaded along the areas situated between Babanusah and Aweil. He said the second batch of relief aid would leave by river for Juba town next week. Dr. al-Aghbash added that air relief operations had been under way since 24 April, at an average of two aircraft a day. He confirmed that clashes between factions of the rebel movement were hampering air relief operations from Kenya because of the concentration of fighting in those areas.

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross resumed operations to the south of the country following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the committee and the government on 21 March which specified the spheres of activity of the international committee, and regulations governing this.

A press statement issued by the office of the Red Cross in Khartoum said that there would be a survey of 14 areas in Upper Nile and Equatoria States in the coming weeks to provide them with assistance.

Iraqi Embassy Denies Baghdad Involved in Bush Plot

EA1605150693 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 16 May (SUNA)—Iraq has denied allegations made by Western and Zionist media accusing Iraq of having attempted to assassinate former President George Bush during his recent visit to Kuwait. A statement issued by the Iraqi Embassy in Khartoum says the Iraqi Government categorically denies those allegations, stressing that no Iraqi official quarter had anything to do with the alleged attempt. It was also said that the leader of the group was an Iraqi officer, something that has no basis of truth. It was said that the Kuwaiti Government had accused the Iraqi authorities of planning the assassination of former American President George Bush during his recent visit to Kuwait.

Regime Charges Southerner With Working for Egypt

EA1605190693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1653 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 16 May (SUNA)—A reliable security source has stated to SUNA that the security authorities have arrested a Sudanese citizen called Mustafa Miftah Basha who is commissioned by the Egyptian Embassy here to threaten some embassies and diplomats by subjected [as received] them to assassination or to destruct their embassies. The Egyptian Embassy used the Sudanese citizen to perform another duty regarding a fabricated report, meaning that the Sudanese Government supports the terrorism against Egypt and some Arab countries.

The called has given a full confession in this regard, saying that he has arrived here a year ago and contacted his friend William who accompanied him to the diplomatic attache in the Egyptian Embassy. Basha went on to say that he was recruited by the Egyptian diplomatic attache for the benefit of the Egyptian Embassy after he was introduced to the Egyptian ambassador and adviser in the Egyptian Consulate here.

The first duty that the called was charged to do it is to record a cassette by his voice in which he claimed that he was trained in the camps of People's Defence Forces, PDF, with Egyptian, Tunisian and Algerian [people]. He went on to say in his allegation that there were trainees from Iran and Iraq in the PDF's camps and 4 groups had already left the camps to [go to] Egypt to kill the Egyptian president.

The security source concluded that the so-called Mustafa Miftah has admitted that the adviser in the Egyptian

Consulate here had charged him in the last week during a meeting in the ambassador's house to convey various threatened messages to some embassies, meaning that there was a side which employed some persons to perform a destructive acts against these missions and diplomats. It is to be noted that the called Mustafa Miftah from Zande tribe in southern Sudan who learned in Shandi town in the northern state and Wad al- Sayih in Khartoum State and now works in the Egyptian ambassador's house.

Direct Phone Link With Egypt 'Halted'

EA1605125593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 16 May (SUNA)—The Egyptian authorities have halted use of the direct telephone line between Egypt and the Sudan, SUNA learned. The step was taken by the Egyptian authorities with the aim that any person who endeavors to conduct a telephone contact with the Sudan shall resort to the central switchboard to connect him with [the] destination. The measure was evidently intended to subject to control and surveillance of all the telephone conversations between the people in the two countries.

Meanwhile, the decision has led to confusion and inconveniences regarding the telephone contact between Egypt and Sudan. Heads of the Sudanese community in major Egyptian towns have criticised the measure and described it as unjustifiable escalation of the situation Egyptian universities [as received].

In another development the conference called last Thursday [13 May] on the Arab League to interfere for resolving the conflict between Egypt and the Sudan and putting an end to the allegations and escalation of the

tension [sentence as received]. The conference has also voiced rejection on the Egyptian mass media aggravation of the conflict between the two countries.

PAIC Official Comments on 'Last Foiled Conspiracy'

EA1605131593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 16 May (SUNA)—Deputy secretary-general of the People's Arab and Islamic Congress (PAIC), Ibrahim al-Sanusi, has disclosed more information about the last foiled conspiracy, saying that the Egyptian regime had fixed 26th of last April for overthrowing the National Salvation Revolution. He added that assassinations of some political and religious figures were planned to have been committed.

Addressing a symposium on the Sudanese-Egyptian relations, organized by the General Union of the Sudanese Women Saturday [15 May] Sanusi explained that the Egyptian regime depended on its intelligence elements and some elements of the dissolved Sudanese Communist Party because it lacks confidence in the other dissolved parties. He further said that the series of warnings sent to the government by the Egyptian intelligence and the escalation of Hala'ib issue were aimed at covering the failure of the sabotagious conspiracy.

He reviewed the role of the Sudanese woman and her participation in facing the Egyptian provocations, affirming that what has happened in Bosnia-Herzegovina will not be repeated in the Sudan. He affirmed that the Sudan is keen to settle the problem without shedding blood of Muslim people in the two countries, pointing out that the Egyptian people will determine its stance towards Mubarak's regime which exerts no efforts to gain satisfaction of the United States.

Bahrain

IRNA Managing Director Meets With Amir in Manama

LD1505133693 Tehran IRNA in English 1232 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah said on Saturday that the friendly relations between Tehran and Manama play a key role in maintaining security in the Persian Gulf.

Meeting with the visiting managing director of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA) Fereidoun Verdinejad in Manama, the Bahraini amir said under the present conditions, settling the problems of the Muslim world was possible only through unity and solidarity among Muslim states.

Voicing concern over bloody clashes in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Afghanistan, he reiterated that Muslim countries should step up their efforts to end the suffering on Muslims in those two countries.

The IRNA managing director underlined the need for strengthening Tehran-Manama ties in various fields.

Verdinejad expressed hope that during the ongoing Hajj rituals in Mecca and Medina Muslims would succeed in exchanging views on their problems and in consolidating Islamic foundations in the face of their enemies.

Verdinejad, who is chairman on the NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES POOL (NANAP) is now in Manama to participate in the 17th meeting of the NANAP Coordinating Committee.

Kuwait

Attorney General Denies Releasing Bush Plotters

LD1605093693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0825 GMT 16 May 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 May (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Attorney General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hayy al-Bannay today denied press reports that said the attorney general's office has released two of those who were accused of attempting to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his recent visit to Kuwait. At a news conference today, the attorney general denied a report published by AL-WATAN that said the attorney general's office had released two members of the sabotage network that tried to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his recent visit to Kuwait. They were Muhammad Khalifah Uqlah and Nahar Rumi al-Khalidi, who were released on bail, as the report put it. The attorney general pointed out that the team of American experts in Kuwait has denied the news, which casts doubt by claiming that there is insufficient evidence to convict the Iraqi regime and prove its involvement in the assassination attempt. In a statement distributed to reporters, the attorney general pointed out

that accusations regarding crimes whose punishment carries the death penalty have been levelled against the first 10, who are all Iraqis and who infiltrated into the country immediately before the visit of former U.S. President George Bush. The attorney general's office accused defendants 11 and 12—one a Kuwaiti national and the other an Iraqi national who were in the country and who joined the other 10 defendants in order to carry out the crimes outlined in the statement—of having participated in crimes whose punishment is also the death penalty, the same punishment as the original perpetrators. The attorney general's office has levelled accusations against defendants 13 and 14—who are Kuwaitis—of having committed the crime of bringing alcoholic drinks into the country to sell—a crime whose punishment is five years of imprisonment. These defendants' role was confined to providing a safe haven for some other defendants and of hiding the alcoholic drinks.

The attorney general's office, in its report submitted to the State Security Court—criminal case No. 1978/1993/16/93, State Security Intelligence 12/93, the attorney general's office of state security—names the following persons:

1. Ra'd 'Abd-al-Amir 'Abbud al-Asadi; 33; Iraqi nationality; unemployed; of no fixed abode in Kuwait.
2. Wali 'Abd-al-Hadi 'Abd-al-Hasan al-Gharali; 36; Iraqi nationality; works as a nurse at the al-Najaf Hospital in Iraq; resides there; of no fixed abode in Kuwait.
3. Salim Nasir Sabih Rumi al-Shammari; 34; Iraqi nationality; unemployed; no fixed abode in Kuwait.
4. Bandar Ajil Jabir al-Shammari; 24; Iraqi nationality; resides in the Zubayr area in Iraq—the military quarter; c/ no fixed abode in Kuwait.
5. Adil Isma'il 'Isa al-Utaybi; 44; Iraqi nationality; unemployed; of no fixed abode in Kuwait.
6. Hadi Awdah Harjan al-Khalil al-Shammari; 42; Iraqi nationality; unemployed; resides in Iraq in the al-Zubayr area; of no fixed abode in Kuwait.
7. 'Ali Khudayyir Badday 'Abd, alias al-Majidi; 65; Iraqi nationality; unemployed; resides in al-Zubayr; of no fixed abode in Kuwait.
8. Jabbar Nasir Zayir Inad; 43; Iraqi nationality; unemployed; resides in Iraq in al-Zubayr area; of no fixed abode in Kuwait.
9. Dhaydah Atiyyah Khalid Muhammad al-Khalidi; 38; Iraqi nationality; unemployed; resides in Iraq in al-Zubayr area; of no fixed abode in Kuwait.
10. Jabbar Habib Muhammad al-Kan'ani; 56; Iraqi nationality; unemployed; resides in Iraq in al-Basrah; of no fixed abode in Kuwait.

11. Badr Thamiir Mutlaq al-Shammari; 30; Kuwaiti nationality; a driver at the Ministry of Electricity and Water; resides in Kuwait. 12. Ahmad Jabbar Habib Muhammad al-Kan'ani; 21; Iraqi nationality; employed as a representative of the al-Sharhan Commercial Company; resides in Kuwait.

13. Nasir 'Abd-al-Rida Husayn al-Mil; 43; Kuwaiti nationality; employed as official at the security office at the Juvenile Prison in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor; resides in Kuwait.

14. Salim Shiyad Thamiir Mutlaq al-Shammari; 22; Kuwaiti nationality; lance corporal at the Petroleum Industry Protection Department in the Interior Ministry; resides in Kuwait.

The attorney general's office accused the first 10 persons and another unknown person of acting in the interest of the Iraqi enemy and of detonating explosives at various locations frequented by the public, and of having brought into the country explosives and arms required for implementing the enemy's plan to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush.

The first 10 persons and another unknown person are also accused of having approached the hostile state of Iraq and of having placed themselves at the orders of its intelligence service in order to carry out assassination plans in order to harm Kuwait's political and diplomatic status.

They are also accused of having embarked on the use of explosives in an aim to kill people and damage buildings, utilities, and places allocated for public gatherings, and of having brought into the country a boobytrapped vehicle carrying 80 kg of highly explosive material and an explosive belt, both of which were prepared to be used by accused number two, who was to detonate the vehicle by remote control in a suicide operation at the place where former U.S. President George Bush was to be when visiting Kuwait University. [passage omitted]

Court To Hear Case 5 Jun

LD1605140593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1226 GMT
16 May 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 May (KUNA)—The State Security Court will hold its first session on 5 June to examine the case of the terrorist group which planned to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush on 14 April when he was on a visit to Kuwait. An authoritative source at the State Security Court has announced that the judges will be Counsellor Salih al-Fahd, president of the court, who will chair the proceedings, and Muhammad 'Abdallah Abu-Sulayb and Salim 'Awad al-Khudayr. [passage omitted]

Security Exercises With U.S. End 16 May

LD1605193593 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800
GMT 16 May 93

[Text] In the framework of the joint security and defense agreement between Kuwait and the friendly United

States, the joint exercises—the combined (?performance) between the Kuwaiti and American forces—ended this morning with the final project of these exercises, in which live ammunition was used with the participation of a combat group from the Kuwaiti land forces and that of the American corps of engineers. These exercises seek to raise the combat readiness of the Kuwaiti participating units and training them to prepare for any eventuality through exchange of expertise in joint operations.

Joint Naval, Air Exercises Held With French Forces

LD1505111793 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000
GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Joint Kuwaiti-French air exercises, codenamed the Pearl of the West, by the Kuwaiti and French Air Forces began today. These exercises are taking place within the context of the joint defense and security agreement between Kuwait and France.

The Chief of the General Staff's Office has announced that French F-2000 fighter aircraft arrived in the country yesterday to take part in these exercises, which will continue until 23 May.

The purpose of these exercises is to benefit from the expertise and great experience of friendly forces, in addition to familiarizing the friendly forces with local operational conditions.

Maneuvers Continue

LD1705141793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1230 GMT
17 May 93

[Text] Kuwait, 17 May (KUNA)—Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, Staff Major General 'Ali Muhammed al-Mu'min, today inspected the site of joint Kuwaiti-French naval and air maneuvers.

A number of French naval craft and Mirage-2000 aircraft, in addition to the missile ship Istiqlal, the supply vessel Qaruah, and Kuwaiti F-18 aircraft, are participating in the joint maneuvers.

The joint Kuwaiti-French manoeuvres, which started Saturday [15 May], are the first of their kind between the two countries.

Deputy Chief of Staff on Benefits

LD1705154093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1433 GMT
17 May 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 May (KUNA)—Staff Major General 'Ali al-Mu'min, Kuwaiti deputy chief of staff, has stated that the Kuwaiti-French exercises staged in Kuwait are regarded as part of the joint exercises carried out by the Kuwaiti forces in participation with the allied forces. He pointed out the great benefit derived from these exercises in the development of relations with the allies.

In a statement to KUNA, Staff Major General 'Ali al-Mu'min pointed out that such exercises provide a good opportunity of acquainting friendly forces with the conditions of local naval operations. He added that the Kuwaiti forces are presently carrying out more than one exercise with friendly states, and that in the coming period there will be four-sided exercises in which British, U.S., French, and Kuwaiti forces will take part.

This statement was made during the Kuwaiti military official's visit to the exercise codenamed "The Pearl of the West." Staff Major General al-Mu'min stressed that these exercises are a categorical affirmation for the Iraqi regime that the allies stand shoulder to shoulder and in solidarity with the State of Kuwait, and that they will continue with this policy which was laid down since the liberation of Kuwait from the treacherous Iraqi invasion. [passage omitted]

UK Energy Official Comments on Ties, Carbon Tax

LD1705123693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT
17 May 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 May (KUNA)—Visiting British Minister of State for Energy Timothy Eggar has described existing cooperation between Britain and Kuwait in all energy fields as excellent, and expressed his hopes that it will continue. Eggar told KUNA last night that Britain, being a principle oil-producing country, shares the same opinions with other producing countries, like Kuwait, but as a main oil-consuming country, it has to take other matters into consideration. He said that during his two-day visit, he will discuss several different issues [words indistinct].

On the proposed carbon tax, Eggar said the position of the United Kingdom could be summarized into: "We have not yet made any decision concerning the principles of the carbon tax. We are the only country in the European Community that has not yet agreed to the carbon tax in principle." [passage omitted]

Qatar

Egypt's Mubarak Arrives in Doha for Visit

NC1505092193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT
15 May 93

[Text] Doha, 15 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi today on a visit to the State of Qatar as part of his current tour of the Gulf states.

Meets Amir

NC1505113393 Cairo MENA in English 1055 GMT
15 May 93

[Text] Doha, May 15 (MENA)—The Egyptian-Qatari talks held here today dealt with the latest developments of the Arab and Islamic issues as well as bilateral ties.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani discussed the current Arab relations and means of bolstering them in order to realise a unified stance on the international arena.

The two Arab leaders tackled a number of Islamic issues, especially the Serb-led attacks launched against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

President Mubarak informed Amir Shaykh Khalifah of the outcome of his recent tour of the U.S. and a number of European countries.

Defense Minister Confers With British Military Official

JN1605183393 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT
16 May 93

[Text] Doha, 16 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense, today met with Field Marshal Peter Harding, British Army chief of staff.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that during the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on some issues of common interest in addition to bilateral relations and means to reinforce them.

Saudi Arabia

Further on Crackdown on Human Rights Group

Activist Reportedly Arrested

NC1505102693 Paris AFP in English 0953 GMT
15 May 93

[Text] Nicosia, May 14 (AFP) [dateline as received]—Authorities in Saudi Arabia arrested a member of a newly-formed human rights group amid a government crackdown on the organization, his father and the group's leader said Saturday [15 May].

"Saudi security forces entered my son's apartment at 2:30 a.m. (2330 GMT Friday) in the university campus at Riyadh, searched his library and seized several documents," 'Abdallah al-Mas'ari told AFP by telephone from Riyadh.

His son Muhammad, a physics teacher at King Sa'ud University, was "driven to an unknown destination," said al-Mas'ari, the head of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights (CDLR).

Muhammad was the group's spokesman, according to Liberty, an independent organization based in London which specializes in the defense and promotion of human rights in Muslim countries.

He was first detained on Wednesday after he served as an interpreter at a meeting between committee members and diplomats at the U.S. embassy in Riyadh, the CDLR leader said.

He was "questioned by police for several hours before being released."

'Abdallah al-Mas'ari, who is a lawyer, also accused the U.S. diplomats of having "voluntarily informed Saudi authorities about the tenor of Wednesday's meeting."

Despite the Saudi decision to strip the CDLR's seven founders of their jobs, a source close to the CDLR said the committee would continue to defend the "rights of citizens, foreign workers, and everyone present in the country," according to a statement sent by Liberty.

The source stressed that none of the CDLR members has been mistreated but that the founders' homes have been put under 24-hour surveillance, according to Liberty.

Liberty said that the offices of the CDLR members have not been closed, although the two lawyers have had their licenses to practice taken away.

The source said that "the government's decision to crack down on the group has brought it a huge wave of popular support and sympathy," according to the statement from Liberty.

It added that "letters from more than four hundred important persons from various parts of the country have so far been received expressing support and congratulating the committee on its formation."

But the source said the "CDLR has decided not to produce a hurried response (to the Saudi actions) because this is a new experience in a country like Saudi Arabia and should be dealt with gently."

The Saudi government announced Thursday it had cracked down on the group's founders, dismissing four university professors and a civil servant and banning two lawyers from practicing.

The formation of the group was announced last Friday and it was set up to fight "oppression and injustice" in Saudi Arabia and secure the release of political prisoners.

The formation of the committee angered the Saudi royal family and triggered a condemnation on Wednesday from the highest religious authorities in the conservative state.

The Assembly of Saudi Ulemas charged in a statement that there was no justification for the existence in Saudi Arabia of the committee, arguing the country was already regulated by shari'ah, Islamic law.

The assembly also warned the committee's members about the consequences of their action. It did not elaborate.

Professors Urge Release

NC1605104493 Paris AFP in English 1030 GMT
16 May 93

[Text] Nicosia, May 16 (AFP) - Thirty Saudi university professors have appealed for the release of the

spokesman of a newly-formed human rights group detained for the past two days in Riyadh, the group's leader said Sunday [16 May].

The professors asked Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the governor of Riyadh, to free Muhammad al-Mas'ari of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), CDLR leader 'Abdallah al-Mas'ari and Muhammad's father told AFP by telephone from Riyadh.

The group's spokesman, who is a physics professor, was arrested again on Saturday after being detained a first time on Wednesday, 'Abdallah al-Mas'ari said.

Riyadh announced Thursday it had stripped the committee's seven founders of their jobs. Four university professors, including Muhammad al-Mas'ari, and a civil servant were sacked while two lawyers were barred from practising.

The CDLR, whose formation was announced May 7, said its objectives were to fight "oppression and injustice" in Saudi Arabia and secure the release of political prisoners. Riyadh denies holding political prisoners.

Arab Rights Group Says 400 Arrested

NC1605153093 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT
16 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 16 (AFP)—The Saudi authorities have arrested some 400 supporters of a newly-formed Saudi human rights group, the Arab Organisation of Human Rights (AOHR) said Sunday [16 May].

The Cairo-based AOHR, in a statement to AFP, said more than 10,000 people across Saudi Arabia had signed a petition of support for the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights.

"Nearly 400 supporters of the committee have recently been arrested in various regions of Saudi Arabia," the statement said.

It also expressed "serious concern over the measures taken by the Saudi authorities against the founders and members of this committee" and urged King Fahd to call off the measures.

The Saudi government on Thursday stripped the seven founders of their jobs. Four university professors and a civil servant were sacked while two lawyers were barred from practicing.

On Sunday, the group's leader, 'Abdallah al-Mas'ari, told AFP his son Muhammad, a university professor who served as the committee's spokesman, was arrested by Saudi security forces on Saturday.

The committee, the formation of which was announced on May 7, has said its objectives were to fight against "oppression and injustice" in Saudi Arabia and secure the release of political prisoners.

Riyadh has denied it was detaining any political prisoners.

Group Vows To Continue Fighting

NC1705095893 Paris AFP in English 0929 GMT
17 May 93

[Text] Nicosia, May 17 (AFP)—An Islamic human rights group in Saudi Arabia vowed Monday [17 May] to fight on despite a government crackdown and the arrest of hundreds of its supporters.

"Demonstrations of support have taken place in recent days in different parts of the country ... and this has not pleased the authorities," said the group's leader 'Abdallah al-Mas'ari, contacted from Riyadh by telephone.

He said hundreds of supporters of the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights had been arrested and that more people were expected to be questioned.

Some 400 supporters have been rounded up after more than 10,000 people across the Saudi kingdom signed a petition of support for the newly-formed group, according to the Cairo-based Arab Organisation of Human Rights.

But Mas'ari insisted the committee would "pursue its activities until it convinces the authorities of the pertinence of its action, inspired by shari'ah," or Islamic law.

"I have obligations toward petitioners," who have asked for the committee's intervention before the authorities, he said.

The government Thursday stripped the seven founding committee members of their jobs. Four university professors and a civil servant were sacked while two lawyers were barred from practising.

Mas'ari has said his son Muhammad, a university professor who served as the committee's spokesman, was arrested by security forces Saturday.

The committee, the formation of which was announced on May 7, has said its objectives were to fight against "oppression and injustice" in Saudi Arabia and secure the release of political prisoners.

Riyadh has denied it was detaining any political prisoners and the country's religious leadership has argued the country was already regulated by shari'ah.

Interior Minister Discusses Human Rights, Extremism

NC1505073593 London MBC Television in Arabic 2130 GMT 14 May 93

[Interview with Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud by Nizam Qabalan; place and date not given—recorded; from the "Face to Face" program]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Qabalan] Your Highness, Libya has recently criticized the stand taken by the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Libyan pilgrims. How credible are these Libyan criticisms?

[Nayif] They are not true. We welcome Libyan pilgrims. At Libya's request to send Libyan pilgrims, the custodian of the two holy mosques made an effort and succeeded last year in getting approval for Libyan pilgrims to come here aboard Libyan planes. We don't know why Libya did not avail itself of this. I might add something else. We know that there are overland means of transportation between Libya and other Arab countries, for example, between it and Egypt and Tunisia. They can travel there by car and then fly aboard either Saudi, Egyptian, Tunisian, or other planes. I am really pained and surprised by these fallacies. The decision is not the Kingdom's but an international decision. Also, how can Libyan planes arrive in Saudi territory before flying over other lands such as Egypt or other Arab countries?

[Qabalan] Then, Your Highness, the Kingdom welcomes these pilgrims. The issue is how to transport them from Libya to the Kingdom?

[Nayif] Yes. We welcome Libyans regardless of the means they use to get here. But the decision is not in our hands. As I said, when Libyan planes were allowed to come with pilgrims aboard and approval came from the Security Council they did not come. As you heard the Libyan officials' statements both last and this year, maybe there are news [words indistinct].

[Qabalan] How do you view the problem of extremism in this region and its causes?

[Nayif] First, I denounce and condemn extremism. Second, this extremism is not confined to the Arab homeland alone but is present in many parts of the world. The causes might differ but there is extremism in several countries in the East and West and it is possibly violent at that. This is known. On the causes of extremism, they in fact differ from one society to another and from one country to another. I cannot pinpoint its causes in any Arab country because officials there know better than I. I can say about the Kingdom that if extremism does occur, it will be unacceptable and the state will deal with it very firmly because it violates Islamic shari'ah. No Muslim should be an extremist.

[Qabalan] What do you say to those who adopt violence as a means of achieving their objectives in the name of religious puritanism or fundamentalism?

[Nayif] All this is connected to the former question. As a Muslim, I do not see how a Muslim can be extremist or how he can harm his Muslim brother. This is unacceptable because our Islamic shari'ah prohibits this. Extremism results from excessiveness. Excessiveness in Islam is undesirable and we Muslims have been warned against it. In fact I am very surprised when a Muslim attacks another Muslim in a way that injures him or his dignity. [passage omitted]

As an official in charge of security in an Arab country, I tell our Muslim brothers, including the extremists, that they should be aware because this matter will cause sedition and the consequences will affect the society where the person lives. They might lead to divisions. Who will be harmed? It is the citizen in that country who will be harmed. Islam does not accept it. Extremism prevents stability, and the lack of stability will most certainly prevent development and cohesion between one Muslim and another. A country's economy cannot grow and a society cannot develop into a better one except when there is stability. What interest is there if I harm my country when I can bring about reform in ways that are in line with my religion, the tenets of God Almighty and the teachings of God's messenger, God's peace and prayers be upon him, and the wise caliphs.

[Qabalan] In a similar interview a few months ago, His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz spoke about the significance of stability and security in the Gulf. How do you view security in the Kingdom in the context of Gulf security?

[Nayif] Praise be to the Lord that regardless of the usual crimes and thefts that occur in any country, I can say that security is established in the Kingdom. Compared to what happens in far more advanced countries, crime in our country is very limited. As far as general security that involves every citizen is concerned, security is well established. I pray to God to safeguard this heavenly blessing.

Pan-Arab security in general and Gulf security in particular undoubtedly affect the Kingdom, as part of the Arab world and as a Gulf state. [passage omitted]

[Qabalan] Your Highness, how do you react to reports by certain Western media about human right violations in the Kingdom?

[Nayif] As a human being and a Muslim, and because the people who suffer from this are Muslims, I am surprised at certain states and world organizations which claim to protect or urge respect for human rights. I am more surprised that they write and talk about trivial things. People in Bosnia-Herzegovina are suffering from violations of all ethical and human values and religious principles. These organizations and states take an indecisive and hesitant stand on putting an end to the tragedy of that innocent and unarmed people. Bosnians are being killed, their sanctities are being desecrated, their homes are being demolished, and they are deprived even of taking arms to defend themselves. Where is the humanity and the human rights these organizations are talking about? Every year they issue a statement about human rights and blame other states for violations. Most of the blame is primarily addressed to some Arab states and the Kingdom might have its share of this blame. I tell them frankly that governed by our Muslim beliefs, we in the Kingdom respect human rights more than any other state or society in the world. We are committed to our Islamic principles; our judge is the holy book and our

prophet's teachings. We do not assault or tolerate the humiliation of any human being, either by governmental authorities or all other establishments. Violations attributed to the Kingdom and reports about its treatment of what they describe as political prisoners are untrue; we have nothing of that sort. As interior minister, I can assert and bear responsibility for my words before God, his majesty, and before the Saudi, Arab, and Muslim community that we respect man. In interrogations, we never use any instrument that might harm people physically or mentally; we question them only to reach the truth. My goal is to reach the truth. If I resort to methods to coerce people into telling the truth, I will gain nothing. Resorting to such methods would mean that my goal is to torture that person; we do not have such things. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Welcomes Egypt's Mubarak on Arrival
NC1505144893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1426 GMT
15 May 93

[Text] Riyadh, 15 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him arrived at King Khalid Airport in Riyadh this afternoon from Doha in the course of his current Gulf tour.

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, was in the forefront of those who welcomed President Mubarak on arrival at the airport.

Meeting at Palace

LD1505224293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT
15 May 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 15 May (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God preserve him, custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, held a meeting this evening at King Fahd's office in the royal court at al-Yamamah Palace. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Departs

LD1605104993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1000 GMT
16 May 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 16 May (SPA)—His Excellency President Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt left Riyadh this morning following a two-day visit to the Kingdom. His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, was in the forefront of those who saw him off at King Khalid International Airport. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Receives Afghan Party Leader

LD1605182193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1720 GMT
16 May 93

[Text] Riyadh, 16 May (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud

received in his office in al-Yamamah palace today the leader of the Afghan Hezb-e Eslami party [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] Mohammad Yunus Khales.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Turki al-Faysal.

King Fahd Receives Somalia's Ali Mahdi

LD1605181293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1713 GMT 16 May 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 16 May (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud received in his office at al-Yamamah palace today His Excellency President Ali Mahdi Mohamed, provisional president of the Republic of Somalia and the delegation accompanying him. [passage omitted]

Iran's Reyshahri Meets Iraqi Ulema, SAIRI Members in Medina

LD1605080593 Tehran IRNA in English 0701 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Medina, May 16, IRNA—Head of Iranian hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri expressed hope that the rituals being performed by Muslims would be consistent with the true goal of the hajj.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri made the remark in a meeting with a group of Iraqi ulema and members of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] here Saturday.

Reyshahri who is also personal representative of the leader of the Islamic Republic said that Iraqi people were being suppressed by the ruling regime in that country and that many Iraqi mujahedin had been imprisoned and a large percentage of them dislodged.

Turning to developments in Afghanistan, he expressed hope that the fratricide would soon come to an end there.

He stressed that the key to the eventual success of the Islamic movements in Iraq and other places was the unity of expression.

Regime Reportedly Seeks To Arrest Terrorist Supporter

NC1705053493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2116 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reports that Saudi authorities have asked for the arrest of Usamah Bin-Ladin, a Saudi national accused of financing the training and movement of terrorist groups in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Sudan.

The paper says in its Monday edition that according to security reports, Usamah Bin-Ladin is now in Khartoum.

United Arab Emirates

Egyptian President Ends Visit, Departs 15 May

JN1505100093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 May (WAKH)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak left Abu Dhabi for Doha this morning following an official three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

During the visit, the Egyptian president held talks with His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, dealing with bilateral relations, the Arab situation, and the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Yemen

Council of Representatives Meets, Elects Speaker

JN1505125393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 May 93

[Excerpts] The elected Council of Representatives held its first meeting in the capital, Sanaa, at 0800 today. [passage omitted]

After the Council members were sworn in, the nomination for the speakership of the Council began. A number of members nominated themselves.

After several nominees withdrew, the secret balloting began. The competition was between 'Abdallah Bin-Husyan al-'Ahmar and Muhammad 'Ali al-Rabbadi.

A 10-member committee to count the votes was formed from the Council members. After the votes were counted, brother 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar won the Council speakership after gaining the votes of 223 of the 290 members who attended the meeting, while brother Muhammad 'Ali al-Rabadi gained 59 votes. [passage omitted]

Pilgrims To Start for Mecca 'by Land' 20 May
*JN1605173693 Baghdad INA in English 1645 GMT
16 May 93*

[Text] Baghdad, May 16, INA—Iraqi pilgrims will start leaving to holy land, Mecca next Thursday and Friday.

A source in the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs told INA that the pilgrims will leave by land.

The U.N. and other international parties who played a role in the sanction, have rejected Iraq's repeated appeals to allow transporting the pilgrims by Iraqi Airways planes, despite the fact that these planes are not originally included in the sanction's resolutions of the Security Council.

Al-Sahhaf Refutes GCC Claim on Iraq, People
*JN1605192393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1826 GMT
16 May 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May (INA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has described Emirian Foreign Minister Rashid Bin- 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi's speech at the joint ministerial meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states and the EC member states, as well as his allegations that Iraq does not implement international resolutions as evidence of insistence on harming Iraq's people.

Addressing the joint ministerial meeting in Brussels, Rashid Bin- 'Abdallah said that the GCC member states feel anxious about what he called Iraq's refusal to implement international resolutions.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that Iraq was and will continue to be the basic force preserving balance and stability in the region in the service of the real Arab interests, and that honest and fair-minded people in the region admit this reality, which is being denied by agents serving foreign interests in the region, like the Emirian foreign minister and the Gulf rulers.

The minister added that lies about the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions are only an excuse to maintain foreign presence in the region, to plunder the region's wealth, and to justify the blockade imposed on Iraq's people.

Talbani 'Clique' Spokesman on Banknote Switch
*JN1605163693 Baghdad INA in English 1313 GMT
16 May 93*

[Text] Baghdad, May 16, INA—Ahmad Bamarni, the spokesman for so-called Jalal Talabani clique has admitted that they have got shocked by the Revolution Command Council decision on withdrawing the I.D.[Iraqi Dinar]25 banknotes from circulation. AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad reported today.

He also expressed sorrow of the armed cliques in the autonomy region over the U.N. resolution by pulling out

its elements from the region for the lack in financing their presence in the north of Iraq.

Bamarni confirmed that "we are feeling that the international community left us alone".

Saddam Tours Baghdad Neighborhood, Visits Families
*JN1505145593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 May 93*

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn has inspected the sons of his people at the Mahallat Saddamiyat al-Karkh. His excellency visited a number of families and congratulated them on having new homes, which came as a generous gesture from his excellency. Families in the quarter cheered him, beseeching God to preserve the beloved leader as an asset for his people.

The families whom his excellency visited expressed their overwhelming joy, as well as their happiness at working and building under his wise leadership, despite the unjust blockade imposed by the enemies on our mujahid people. A women gave his excellency a prayer carpet and a kufiyah [traditional Arab headdress] as an expression of faith and Arab affiliation. His excellency then made a tour on foot among the sons of his people after visiting the al-Karkh area of beloved Baghdad.

Kurdish Radio Reports Antiregime Operations
*NC1405173193 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of
Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 May 93*

[Text] Iraqi opposition forces in al-Nasiriyah attacked a train full of troops and ammunition between Baghdad and al-Basrah on 2 May. Our correspondent in al-Nasiriyah said the attack caused heavy damage to the train and left several regime soldiers dead or wounded.

Our correspondent added that the regime deployed huge forces in the areas the trains use. He said the marshlands in al-Nasiriyah and al-'Amarah have become the scene of offensives by the opposition forces, who use speedboats to attack and destroy the regime's positions and targets. These operations have left the regime helpless and gripped with panic, our correspondent added.

Space Center Makes Satellite TV Reception Device
*JN1605204393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1938 GMT
16 May 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May (INA)—The Space Research Center, an affiliate of the Military Industrialization Organization, has managed to produce a prototype of a device for receiving television transmission via satellite. The device has been called Fawsat 1.

A responsible source at the center told INA that the new device, manufactured in Iraq for the first time, is connected to a television set and also to the special antenna for receiving television transmission via satellite. It is the same size as a video cassette recorder, the source added.

The source asserted that the production of Fawsat 1 has been achieved with purely Iraqi expertise and design work, drawing on the locally available raw materials.

Officials Comment on Ninth Round of Peace Talks

Peres Regrets Lack of Palestinian Leadership

TA1405173393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 May 93

[Excerpt] Addressing a gathering of heads of Labor party branches in Netanya today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin emphasized that it is Israel's position that all the agreements with the Palestinians pertaining to the interim arrangement should not block any possibilities with regard to the permanent solution. He regretted that the Palestinians do not have a leadership. Several members of their delegation wanted to discuss the proposals submitted by Israel, but their leaders in Tunis prevented such a debate, he said.

The prime minister called on international organizations to invest money in the territories. Rich countries such as Saudi Arabia can take care of their brethren. Rabin pointed out that Israel invests 200 million shekels in infrastructure and make-work programs in the territories. I hope the European countries, which constantly talk about the Palestinians, appreciate Israel's efforts, the prime minister noted.

Referring to the closure in the territories, the prime minister believes that this move enabled the removal of 30,000 unemployed Israelis from the circle of people receiving unemployment benefits and their reassignment to work in construction and industry. [passage omitted]

Rabin on 'Personal Meetings' With Syrians

TA1505095193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 May 93

[Excerpts] In the shadow of the coalition and peace talks crises, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin addressed dozens of Labor party activists in Netanya last night. Our correspondent Hadar Vismansky heard the prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Vismansky] The present state of the peace talks with Syria requires high-level decisions and perhaps even personal meetings, if progress is to be achieved. This observation was made by Prime Minister Rabin. He reiterated his stand that Israel is ready to make territorial concessions in the Golan Heights, but will not divulge the scope of its concessions as long as Syria fails to elucidate its perception of full peace. Rabin asked: Will that peace comprise borders open to trade and tourism, as well as diplomatic relations, including embassies? This is what Syria must tell us, the prime minister said. He added, however, that the Golan must not be sold quickly and readily; it would be quite pointless. [passage omitted]

The prime minister went on to say that Israel is not ready to discuss a permanent arrangement with the Palestinians at this time.

[Rabin] At this stage, we are not discussing anything to do with the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians; we are only discussing the interim arrangement. Our argument with them is over their insistence to either discuss the permanent solution or to introduce permanent solution elements as firm facts. We oppose that. What we say is that whatever happens during the interim period should not block any options for the permanent solution.

[Vismansky] [passage omitted] The prime minister addressed the coalition crisis, too. He said he had always known that the coalition would be difficult to sustain, but it is important to make efforts to preserve the coalition, which gives better hope for progress in the political sphere. Matchmaking between Meretz and an ultra-Orthodox party is not easy, said Rabin, but we must establish an atmosphere that will allow us to focus on crucial issues. [end recording]

Beilin 'Disappointed'

TA1405161293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin is disappointed with the deliberations in the latest round of the peace talks and believes this round was not particularly successful. There is no need to devote 18 months to discuss the preamble to Article 5 in the deliberations with the Syrian delegation, he said. The negotiations with Syria are stuck over the demand for a full Israeli withdrawal.

The deputy foreign minister believes that this vicious cycle must be broken, and that the government cannot pursue this path and must rethink the political process together with the United States. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the deputy foreign minister made these remarks in a meeting with Israeli journalists in Washington.

Rubinstein, Lubrani Cited

TA1405162193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with the Palestinians, asserted that the United States is trying to fulfill its role as a full partner in the negotiations and to bridge the gap in the positions of the sides. According to him, the talks with the Palestinians will continue because there is no reason to stop them. The Palestinians suspended their participation in several subcommittees for reasons unrelated to the negotiations, he said. As far as Israel is concerned, there is no substitute for the discussions. Rubinstein made these remarks upon the return of the Israeli delegations to the negotiations from the talks in Washington.

Uri Lubrani, head of the delegation to the talks with Lebanon, said that after Israel presented its position the Lebanese delegation submitted its own position paper. The positions contained in it put the discussions back to

square one, he said. Nevertheless, Lubrani believes that the Lebanese delegation also feels that the process is irreversible. The Israeli delegation made clear to Lebanon following a thorough debate about the security arrangements that there will be no change in Israel's deployment in south Lebanon if there is no peace.

Cabinet Session Held 16 May To Review Ninth Round

Resumption in 3 Weeks Possible

TA1605112293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] The cabinet meeting ended a short time ago. At the meeting, the prime minister received a report on the terrorist attack in the Qatif Bloc and updated the ministers.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that from the reports by the heads of delegation to the Washington negotiations, the ministers received the impression that there is no deadlock, and that there is a chance that the talks will be resumed within three weeks with U.S. assistance. Upon leaving the meeting, Minister Arye Der'i said that some of the responsibility for the stalemate in the Washington negotiations is due to remarks by several ministers who announced an Israeli readiness for far-reaching concessions. Minister Der'i has a meeting scheduled with the prime minister.

Rabin Ending 'Unilateral Gestures'

TA1605134593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] At today's cabinet session, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the Palestinians had developed exaggerated expectations for Israeli goodwill gestures without offering anything in return either at the negotiating table or in the field. Israel would not continue making unilateral gestures without receiving anything in exchange, the prime minister said.

At the meeting, it was reported that 35,000 out of the 45,000 Palestinians authorized to work in Israel had already received work permits. Major General Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, told the cabinet that the economic situation in the territories had worsened.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the ministers were informed that 15,000 Palestinians in the territories were employed in make-work projects, and would be joined by another 2,000 locals over the next few weeks.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has permitted Gaza Strip fishermen to cast their nets up to 20 nautical miles from shore. This came at the request of members of the Palestinian delegation in Washington.

'New Nuance' in Syrian Talks

TA1605163493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 May 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] Today the cabinet explored every possible phrasing in a bid to avoid defining the ninth round of peace talks as a failure. The attempt was particularly necessary in the wake of Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's remarks in the United States in which he urged the government to consider modifying the framework of the peace talks in view of the dismal outcome of the most recent round. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to talks with the Palestinians, chose to define his sentiments following this round of talks as mixed feelings.

Heads of the delegations to the talks briefed the cabinet ministers on progress in Washington. As expected, they had no sensational news to impart, but of all the tracks, it was the Syrian one that offered a new nuance: The Syrians, said David Afeq, the acting delegation head, have for the first time hinted at a readiness to normalize relations with Israel, although they stressed that it will be possible only after a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. [A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 16 May cites Afeq as saying that "at this stage, the Syrians are willing to offer a state of nonbelligerency in return for full withdrawal from the Golan Heights." The report adds that "in Afeq's opinion, the Syrians would like to incorporate components of normalization in the activities of working committees. The Syrian delegation's stands are very rigid, but the potential for continuing the negotiations is definitely there, Afeq said."]

On the Palestinian track, Israel proposed to maintain direct contact at all times, including between rounds. In addition, Israel called on the Palestinians to appoint regional liaison personnel, who will be able to file complaints on violations of human rights in the territories. This proposal was rejected, however. [passage omitted]

Several ministers advocated steps to alleviate the closure in a bid to allow progress at the talks. Everyone loves to be in love with the closure, but it is dangerous in terms of the future, cautioned Minister 'Uzi Bar'am. Minister Yosi Sarid said that unless the dire economic situation in the territories was improved, the peace process might come to a halt. Minister Ya'ir Tzaban's remarks reflected a similar outlook. [passage omitted]

Dispatch of U.S. Envoy Urged

TA1705100893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 May 93 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] In view of the reported crisis atmosphere in the Palestinian camp due to growing terror and the Syrians' frustration at the end of the ninth round of peace talks,

Israel is urging the United States to send a senior envoy to the region as soon as possible in a bid to prevent a freeze in the peace process.

A possible visit to the region by Secretary of State Warren Christopher to ensure the continuation of the process was mentioned yesterday, but this possibility is now doubtful.

At this point, Israel is the only participant to announce that it will attend the 10th round of talks, scheduled for 7 June.

David Afeq, acting head of the delegation to the talks with Syria, said in yesterday's cabinet session that Syria is close to the point where it will present its demand for an Israeli commitment to a comprehensive withdrawal as a condition for continuing the negotiations and not just for comprehensive peace.

Afeq went on to say that the Syrians have already hinted that they see no sense in going ahead with the talks if Israel persists in its refusal to detail its position concerning the scope of the withdrawal. According to Afeq, the Syrians should not be expected to voice their willingness to normalization before Israel commits itself to a full withdrawal.

A senior political source said last night that a decision by the political level has now become indispensable, seeing that otherwise there is no sense in wasting time on sterile talks with the Syrians. [passage omitted]

Two Israeli, Two Arab Merchants Killed Near Gaza

TA1605100293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0950 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Two Israelis and two local Arabs were killed in the Qatif Bloc when shot at by terrorists. The four were in the midst of a vegetable deal near the settlement of Gadid when fire was opened at them by terrorists from inside a passing car. Our correspondent Moti Amir is in the studio with more details:

The attack occurred several minutes after 1200 [0900 GMT]. According to an initial report, it appears that vegetable merchants, two Israelis and two Arab merchants from Gaza, who were near a warehouse north of the settlement of Gadid in the Qatif Bloc, were in the middle of a deal. They were shot at from a passing car.

It is the same site where vegetable merchant Yehezkel Avraham was murdered two months ago when attacked by terrorists. Large forces closed off the area and began searches for the murderers.

Hamas, Fatah Claim Attack

TA1605143993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 May 93

[Excerpt] The two Israelis and the two Arabs murdered by terrorists in Gush Qatif today were shot from an M-16

rifle at close range, investigators said. One of the murdered men was shot while sitting inside a van bearing Hebron license plates, into which agricultural produce had earlier been loaded. The three others were standing near the van. The security forces have detained several suspects for questioning.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a handbill was found on the site of the attack saying that men from a Hamas-[Islamic Resistance Movement] affiliated 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad and from the Fatah Hawks had jointly carried out the attack in revenge for the killing of six terrorists near the Egyptian border. Our correspondent notes that this is the first time these two squads have worked together.

Reacting to the murderous attack, the Meretz faction at the Knesset has announced that the closure on the Gaza Strip has exacerbated the suffering of the local population and turned the Gaza Strip into a time bomb. Meretz faction chairman Ran Kohen said the authorities must immediately issue directives barring Israelis from entering the territories.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that a statement issued by the Moledet Knesset faction says the closure of the territories does not guarantee security. Faction chairman Rehav'am Ze'evi said that in addition to the closure, terrorists should be deported and the homes of locals implicated in terrorist acts demolished. [passage omitted]

Hamas-PLO Rapprochement Denied

TA1705064793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 May 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Dan] Mr. Gur, it is a fact that many Israelis are still risking their lives and entering the territories, despite the warnings. Perhaps you should do more than issue recommendations and maybe ban it?

[Gur] The fact is a fact, but I believe you are aware of the implications of an order banning Israelis from entering the territories. Furthermore, many Israelis reside in the territories—and this is only one of the reasons for not doing so, perhaps the simplest and clearest of them—and that is why we will not issue an order closing the territories to Israelis. We have closed off the territory beyond the Green Line, and those violating the orders should be treated with the full severity of the law, because they are not only putting their lives at risk but are also endangering others. [passage omitted]

[Dan] We would like your reaction to yet another point, which may be unusual and perhaps even more serious from Israel's point of view: the first, I believe, joint Fatah-Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] operation. Is this an indication of some merger between the factions? How do you view it?

[Gur] Based on most of the information in our hands, I can tell you that not only is there no tendency toward rapprochement between these two organizations at present, but the tension between them continues and is expressed in a variety of areas.

[Dan] How, then, do you explain this joint operation?

[Gur] Well, because people from one region were hit, it is likely that terror group members joined forces for this operation. I would suggest this not be regarded as the beginning of Hamas-PLO cooperation. Naturally, we are constantly following this matter closely, because things can change. What took place is in no way a sign of rapprochement.

Rabin Issues Warning

TA1605130393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Reacting to this afternoon's murder in the Qatif Bloc, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin called on Israelis who do not live in Judeaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip not to wander around the territories and not to trust the Palestinians, who despite their good intentions, cannot protect them against terrorists.

The prime minister pointed out no prohibitions were being placed on the movements of Israelis in Judeaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; however they should not risk their lives in order to buy cheap vegetables.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem notes that the prime minister was speaking during a tour of the president's residence.

President 'Ezer Weizman sent condolences to the bereaved Arab and Jewish families and said that we were still in the midst of a difficult, cruel, and ugly confrontation. The president expressed his confidence that the Israeli Government was on the right path toward finding a solution.

Further Reportage on Violence in Territories

Soldiers, Arabs Injured

TA1505191993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 May 93

[Excerpt] Three soldiers were wounded this evening by an exploding fragmentation grenade thrown by terrorists at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] position on the roof of a house in the al-Shati refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Initial reports note that the soldiers were lightly injured. Local inhabitants told our correspondent Moti Amir that the soldiers retaliated with gunfire, and that three locals were lightly injured as a result. The security forces closed off the area of the incident and began searching for the terrorists.

In Khan Yunus, two homemade firebombs were thrown at an IDF patrol this evening, but nobody was hurt. The

soldiers responded with gunfire, and the terrorists fled. Later, a homemade firebomb was thrown at a Border Police bomb disposal expert who was on his way to the scene of the attack. In this incident, too, nobody was hurt. The security forces closed off the area of the incident.

Also in Khan Yunus, an armed wanted man, Mu'ayn Abu-Sita of the Fatah Hawks gang, was caught today and another Arab was arrested on suspicion of aiding wanted men. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

Suspected Collaborator Killed

TA1505151193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] In the al-Burayj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, 25-year-old Maysar Fayiz was murdered today by two masked men, apparently on suspicion that he had collaborated with the authorities.

Elsewhere in the Gaza Strip—in Jabalyah, Bayt Hanun, and in Khan Yunus—at least 10 people were wounded by soldiers' gunfire in the course of stone-throwing incidents.

Except in Janin and Tulkarm, a general strike was observed today in the territories.

'Over 50' Wounded in Gaza

TA1505201193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 May 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A large gathering near the home of the terrorist Hasan Hamuda, who was killed this week in a clash with the security forces near the Egyptian border, was dispersed this evening in the Jabalyah refugee camp. Local Gazans told our correspondent Moti Amir that 30 people were wounded by soldiers' gunfire during the dispersal of the gathering. According to them, over 50 people were wounded today in the Gaza Strip, most of them in Jabalyah and Gaza. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is checking this report. The IDF spokesman's office knows of 11 casualties who were treated in hospitals in the Gaza Strip and sent home.

Two Children Killed

TA1605174693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Twelve-year-old Muhammad Durrul, who threw stones at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] observation post in the al-Shati' refugee camp, was killed by soldiers' gunfire. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the IDF is looking into the circumstances of the event.

The body of an 18-month-old baby, who was killed by gunshots, was brought to Gaza's al-Shifa' Hospital early this afternoon. Local residents said the baby was killed by soldiers' gunfire. The IDF is checking the report.

Woman Shot, Fugitives Captured

TA1705104693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000
GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Maryam al-Sawarqa, a resident of the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp, was shot and killed early this morning. Local residents told our correspondent Moti Amir that she was shot by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' fire while in bed. According to them, the soldiers fired indiscriminately after an explosive device thrown at their car went off. The Army is investigating the incident.

Two fugitives were captured last night and this morning in the Zaytun neighborhood of Gaza and in Bani-Suhaylah. Curfews were imposed this morning on Zaytun and on the Tall al-Sultan neighborhood of Rafah.

Palestinians, Egyptians Said Training in Sinai Camp

TA1705045393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400
GMT 17 May 93

[Text] A military training base for wanted Palestinians who escaped from the Gaza Strip before the closure of the territories has been operating in the Sinai Desert. The camp is east of al-Shaykh Ziyad, at a site known as Rummanah. Also training there are Muslim extremists who fled Cairo when Egyptian authorities began a clampdown on Muslim fundamentalists.

Israeli sources told a Qol Yisra'el reporter that last week, Egyptian police patrolling the Sinai entered the camp. After an exchange of gunfire, they arrested eight of the trainees, some of whom were from the Gaza Strip. Two

Egyptian policemen were wounded in the shooting. The wanted Palestinians at the camp had been trying for the past month to smuggle arms into the Gaza Strip by way of tunnels in the Rafah area.

Mubarak Calls Weizman To Convey Congratulations

TA1705073393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700
GMT 17 May 93

[Text] In a telephone conversation this morning, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak congratulated President 'Ezer Weizman on his election. Mubarak explained that his congratulations were delayed because he had been on a tour of the Gulf states.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that President Weizman told Mubarak he is glad to hear that the Egyptian president is touring the region to promote the peace process and that he intends to do his best for peace in the region.

Peres Leaves for India, China Visits

TA1605070893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600
GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left today for India and China accompanied by a group of businessmen. In Delhi, the foreign minister will confer with the president and the prime minister, and will sign agreements for technological and cultural cooperation, as well as an aviation and tourism accord.

Mr. Peres will be granted an honorary doctorate at Beijing University and will inaugurate the Ben-Gurion chair of international issues.

U.S. Document Expresses Close Alliance With Israel

JN1405120693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 May 93
p 1

[Editorial: "The U.S. Document"]

[Text] The PLO has rejected the U.S. document on autonomy. It is the document by which Washington wanted to bridge the stands of the Palestinian and Israeli sides during the peace negotiations in Washington. The document was rejected because it was a rewording of Israeli ideas instead of being a modification or improvement of these ideas. In any case, this outcome can be expected as long as there is a strategic alliance between the United States and Israel. Hence, it is natural in this case for the U.S. proposals presented during the peace negotiations to be closely linked to this alliance and to be expressive of Israeli interests before anything else. From this premise, it is hard to be convinced of the seriousness and use of Washington's role as a full partner in these negotiations in light of the continued strategic alliance between it and Tel Aviv.

The United States is called on to adopt balanced relations between it and parties to the peace process in the region so that it can play a full partner's role towards all the parties. Hence, the U.S. adherence to the continuation of its strategic relations with Israel is a behavior that totally contradicts any real desire to play a full partner role in the peace negotiations.

It can be said that the U.S. document is a clear translation of this. The U.S. document expressed the commitment of an ally to his ally. It did not express the balanced approach of a full partner toward all the partners. Based on this, the Palestinian rejection of the document was expected.

It is about time for Washington to realize that in its relationship with the peace process, it is difficult for it to combine the role of a strategic ally to Israel and a full partner's role toward parties to this process. Consequently, a partner's role in the peace process should be the only factor governing these relations with this process. However, is it possible for the United States to abandon its strategic alliance with Israel in order to play a full partner's role in making peace? This is the question to which it is difficult to answer with a yes.

U.S. Document Seen as Reworking of Israeli Ideas

JN1505085193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
15 May 93 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "The Losing Participation"]

[Text] Despite all the diplomatic and equivocal statements made by U.S. and Israeli officials, no one can claim that the ninth round of peace talks has achieved anything. This is because this round has not moved from

square one, and stands remained unchanged, thus providing nothing new to the futile previous eight rounds of talks.

The U.S. officials' talk about achieving a breakthrough and about positive signs on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks was not founded on clear bases or tangible results. Such talk was merely an attempt to adorn the role of the United States, which was described as a full, honest and neutral partner, acquainted with the views of both sides, who is attempting to reach compromises that do not undermine the principles on which the peace process was initially based.

The role of a full partner requires taking into account that any stand by any party should be committed to both the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principles of a just peace settlement. Such a role also requires rejection of any stand that conflicts with these resolutions and principles as well as the exertion of positive and practical pressures so that all the issues being negotiated will be discussed under their legitimate headlines; namely, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle. Any stand or role contrary to this will be a rejected stand and an unbalanced role.

The peace process is indivisible. It is also a lengthy and difficult mission. At the same time, however, it should proceed within the context of a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution. It should also be promoted by the implementation of the international legitimacy resolutions and land-for-peace principle. This means Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate national and political rights.

All that took place in the negotiation halls throughout the past three weeks could not secure a single Israeli commitment to the bases of a peace settlement, whether regarding withdrawal or recognition of both Palestinian rights and human rights in the Palestinian territories. Israel focused only on taking further steps toward normalization and legitimizing both its settlements and political practices.

The U.S. role has failed to impose the principles of a peaceful settlement and international legitimacy on the Israeli side. The Arab parties honored these principles, and behaved and held negotiations according to them. Therefore, the U.S. role cannot be described as that of a neutral or full partner in the peace process. Hence, participation in the peace talks within this framework at a time when one party holds all the cards and the other party holds none will only constitute a loss for the Arabs under the new world order, which uses double standards and views the rights of others according to two different yardsticks.

Further Reportage on Withdrawal of Iraqi Dinar Notes**Egyptian Paper Claims Collusion**

JN1605202993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 May 93

[Excerpts] The Egyptian AL-JUMHURIYAH published an article by its chief editor, Mahfuz al-Ansari, on 13 May 1993, in which he claimed that the cancellation of the Iraqi 25-dinar banknote was a process planned in advance between His Majesty King Husayn and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

He claimed that huge quantities of the Iraqi 25-dinar banknotes were printed abroad, and were intensively circulated in northern Iraq. This led, as he claims, to an agreement on containing the process through canceling this banknote and closing the borders to prevent its entry, and prevent exchanging it or returning it to the Central Bank of Iraq.

The political editor of the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY-PETRA wrote the following in an answer to the allegations of al-Ansari, and totally denying the contents of his article:

What has prominently characterized the Jordanian foreign policy, which was worked out by His Majesty King Husayn over the past four decades, is commitment in word and deed to the principles of mutual respect, respect for the political, economic, and cultural options of the countries and peoples, and noninterference in the affairs of any country. The Jordanian policy was also characterized by its position against occupation, racial discrimination, and oppression. [passage omitted]

When the second Gulf crisis came, Jordan adopted a clear position, which is based on an Arab solution to the crisis. The Arab masses adopted this position, defended and supported it, and established it as a pan-Arab approach for relations among the countries of the nation.

It goes without saying that this pan-Arab position was attacked by the powers and writers, who contributed to the catastrophe and divided the ranks of this nation by placing the Arabs in a position of fighting each other. This onslaught only led to more adherence to the pan-Arab Jordanian position after the dust settled and the bright reality was known to everyone.

The Egyptian AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper article is painful and regrettable because the allegations fabricated against Jordan continue even after all the real facts and information became clear.

The fair-minded people note that AL-JUMHURIYAH's allegations are part of the last breath in the unjust hired campaign, which accompanied the second Gulf crisis, whose high costs were paid by the quarters angered because Jordan refused to desert the nation's values, traditions, and the honorable soldiership. [passage omitted]

The political editor of the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY concluded his reply to the allegations made by the Egyptian AL-JUMHURIYAH by saying: We were not astonished that the chief editor of AL-JUMHURIYAH said what he said, but what astonished us is this unreasonable fabrication and forgery, which aimed at stoking anew the ash that has no fire. This attempt basically aims at attacking what cannot be attacked, namely the bright pan-Arab position adopted by Jordan—king, people, and government.

Banknote Issue 'Completely Over'

JN1705064993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 May 93 pp 1, 22

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—'Abd-al-Sattar al-Ma'ini, Iraqi minister of transport and communications, has said that the Iraqi decision to withdraw from circulation the foreign-printed version of its currency was aimed against those who wanted to harm the Iraqi economy after the greatest part of this version had been held by usurers and speculators in the Iraqi currency. He said that this decision proceeds from Iraq's right to defend its economy.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, al-Ma'ini added that the decision was an Iraqi decision. He said usurers in Iraq, the Gulf States, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Turkey attempted to influence the Iraqi economy, having gained control of its currency and its exchange rate.

He indicated that the Jordanian officials, including the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, had warned against speculating in the Iraqi currency.

The Iraqi minister affirmed that the issue of withdrawing the Iraqi [25-dinar] banknote is now completely over, and that Iraq now depends on its nationally-printed currency.

'Text' of Israeli Document Published

NC1705102593 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 11 May 93
pp 1, 13

[Report by Ibrahim al-Amin—punctuation as published]

[Text] AL-SAFIR has obtained from informed sources the literal text of the Arabic translation of the Israeli proposal submitted last week to the Lebanese delegation to the bilateral negotiations.

The proposal, entitled "The Political Framework of the Joint Military Working Group," has been the subject of intensified inter-Lebanese and Syrian-Lebanese consultations, which culminated in a suitable reply. According to official sources, the reply reiterated Lebanon's insistence on the established principles, primarily: the need for Israel to commit itself to the implementation of Resolution 425 and to draw up a timetable for pulling out its troops from all the occupied Lebanese territories in south Lebanon, western al-Biq'a, and Rashayya.

The Lebanese reply was carried to Washington the day before yesterday by Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, deputy chairman of the Lebanese delegation. A copy of the same reply was faxed to [delegation chairman] Ambassador Suhayl Shammās, who will submit the reply to the Israeli delegation during today's session.

Since the proposal touches on Lebanese demands concerning the implementation of Resolution 425 and bringing about the withdrawal from "the Lebanese territories" rather than "Lebanese territories," it refers to this issue as if it is a Lebanese demand that does not bind Israel. It refers specifically to the Israeli demand to guarantee the security of "the northern border" through "security arrangements" conducive to "a peace treaty with Lebanon through the Madrid conference."

The Israeli proposal suggests a framework for the action of the proposed committee "under the supervision of the two sponsors of the peace conference" and without UN participation. It thus ignores the truce agreement and excludes any UN forces role.

Most important when it comes to the items of the proposal is that they fail to mention withdrawal and limit the issue to solutions to "the security issues" in the framework of "a joint military committee similar to that which operated in 1983" and reached the 17 May agreement in its security aspect. The literal text of the proposal follows:

Text of the Proposal:

"Considering the Lebanese desire to have the Israeli troops withdraw from Lebanese territories and reestablish the effective Lebanese authority in the place as shown in UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426,"

"Taking into account Israel's desire to make a peace treaty with Lebanon within the framework of the Madrid conference, a treaty that includes articles that seek to

safeguard Israel's security along its northern border through means other than the presence of the Israeli forces on Lebanese territories, and"

"Since it is the desire of both countries, Lebanon and Israel respectively, to achieve these goals without harming the basic stances of both countries, in a manner that is politically tolerable for both sides, and since both sides admit that mutual security, including the quiet and peaceful conditions along the Lebanese-Israeli border, represents the central concern of both sides,"

"To this end, a joint military working group exclusively comprised of high-ranking military officers and specialist experts will meet to study the security problems, search for solutions acceptable to both teams, and submit practical proposals that reflect the stances of both sides to be discussed at the general session."

"This working group can hold its meetings in the area of the Lebanese-Israeli border, similar to the al-Naqrāh talks of 1983, or in Washington, near the hall in which the bilateral negotiations are being held, as agreed between the two sides."

"The working group will emanate from the general sessions. It will hold its meetings and report to and act in accordance with the instructions and guidance of the general sessions. It will operate under the supervision of the two conference sponsors and will be based on the principles and rules of that conference."

The informed sources told AL-SAFIR that the second week of negotiations witnessed a quiet discussion. The head of the Israeli delegation Uri Lubrani often showed "understanding" of the "reality and background to the Lebanese stance," which Ambassador Suhayl Shammās has reiterated. The sources noted from the minutes of the meetings: "The charged atmosphere of the previous sessions has disappeared because of the Israeli side's retreat from the intransigent and sharp positions."

The sources revealed that Shammās and Lubrani on 3 and 4 May discussed the issue of Lebanese detainees in Israeli jails, the Israeli prisoners, and the bodies of the occupation soldiers in Lebanon. Lubrani said: "We have information that our soldiers' bodies are in Sultan Ya'qub and other areas. We also know that the others are not held by Lebanese forces and understand the reality of the Lebanese situation, but we want to reach a solution to this issue."

As for the negotiations' progress, Shammās told the Israeli delegation head: "We have come to listen to a clear view from you. We insist on our position on the full implementation of Resolution 425." Lubrani replied, saying his government "has prepared a written proposal and we will provide you with a copy of it in the next session."

The next day, as Lubrani handed Shammās a copy of the English-language Israeli proposal, Shammās said his team needed time to read the proposal and consult

Beirut. The Lebanese delegation held a brief meeting after which Shammass emerged to inform the Israeli delegation: "The proposal will be sent to Beirut and we will reply after our government has studied it."

At the 5 May session, Shammass told Lubrani the message was now in Beirut, but that the delegation in Washington "has assessed the proposal, made several notes on the wording and content, and the delegation feels you should explain some of its aspects." Lubrani replied, saying he "preferred the discussion to be held after the official Lebanese response to the proposal is received."

The same sources said that despite the Israeli side's insistence on not entering into detail, Ambassador Shammass insisted on addressing three questions to the Israeli delegation concerning the proposal. They are: 1. What is meant by the political framework and what is its aim? 2. Does the first paragraph of the proposal express the spirit of the Lebanese stance and mean a clear Israeli commitment to it? 3. Does the second paragraph express the spirit of the Israeli stance?

Lubrani answered, saying he is not qualified to reply to these questions until he receives the official Lebanese response. Shammass concluded the session by saying: "Well, we will await the response. But consider that these questions will accompany the response."

The sources revealed that a meeting was then held in the office of the Lebanese Ambassador in Washington Simon Karam. It was attended by Shammass, members of the Lebanese delegation, and a U.S. State Department official from the Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerjian's team. The purpose was to assess the Israeli stance. The U.S. official asked the Lebanese side to deal positively with the proposal the inclusion of which in a written document signifies a new Israeli position. But Ambassador Shammass stressed that Lebanon cannot accept it without clarifying some points and without a prior agreement on the task of the joint military committee.

Minister: Publication 'Grave Mistake'

NC1505133893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Minister of Labor 'Abdallah al-Amin has said that the publication of the Israeli document was a grave mistake and that certain judicial authorities were hasty in using all legal rights in dealing with this issue. He added that certain people's using this issue to claim that press, media, and public freedoms are in jeopardy would have been avoided. He affirmed that any encroachment on freedom means encroachment on the whole country and its dangers resemble those of the Israeli occupation.

He denied that the press issue was raised during President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Hariri's tour of some of the Gulf states.

In an interview with our radio's "A Personality and An Opinion" Program, al-Amin called for modernizing laws

and regulations concerning the media to keep pace with international and Lebanese developments. He said that a comprehensive media law must be devised to guarantee press and media freedoms and freedom of speech, opinion, and doctrine, and to protect the state's higher interests against any media anarchy or against taking advantage of democracy such as in countries which regard higher national interests as a maximum ceiling for such limits.

Al-Hariri on Document

NC1705065593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 May 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri met yesterday at his home with the chief editors of Lebanese newspapers. Present were Health Minister Marwan Hamadah, Journalists Association head Muhammad al-Ba'lbakki, and Editors Association head Milhim Karam.

Addressing the meeting, al-Hariri said: Nothing tangible has been achieved during the ninth round of talks. But what happened is that Israel has submitted a written paper for the first time. We also submitted a written paper for the first time. Israel's paper was leaked. Our paper reiterates commitment to Resolution 425.

The prime minister added: Certain quarters said that the Israeli paper contains positive aspects. But these positive aspects can only be seen if the paper is read in the form in which we rendered it. No doubt the mention of Resolution 425 in the paper is something new, but the Israeli paper must be read from the Lebanese point of view. In other words, when this paper mentions Resolution 425, it means Israel must unconditionally withdraw from all Lebanese territory.

Al-Hariri said: We believe in the liberation of the south, and the negotiations represent one of the means to achieve this liberation. The issue does not rest in this or that document. We cannot say if this document is good or bad, regardless of whether it is published. The press in democratic countries presents the countries' foreign policy. The press is free, but within the law.

The prime minister said: As far as we are concerned, the negotiations issue is more sensitive than any other topic. We are sensitive regarding the negotiations issue and the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. I have always said that the Israeli occupation is like a poisonous arrow in the Lebanese body. Some papers raised the issue as if the entire problem cropped up because Israel opposed publication of the document. This is not true. I believe that even those who raised it know it is not true.

The prime minister said: What concerns us is the liberation of the south. The negotiations are one of the available means, as is the resistance. Some agree and others disagree that resistance is a sacred right as long as our land remains occupied. Perhaps resistance and the negotiations separately are not enough to liberate the land, but through these two means, we may be able to

liberate it. Consequently, we are extremely sensitive about this issue. I urge every one of you not to make the negotiations issue a subject of competition among you.

Al-Hariri added: Lebanon cannot sign a secret agreement with Israel, and no one has the power in Lebanon to conclude such an agreement. I am one of those who will never sign anything that would harm the country's dignity. We hope that no one will resort to one-upmanship regarding this issue. I urge you to handle the negotiations issue with a high sense of responsibility. There is no need to talk about the law. We must talk about the citizens' responsibilities, the press' responsibilities, and the responsibilities for the liberation. [passage omitted]

AL-SAFIR Defendants Not To Be Tried for Espionage

NC1505115793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] First investigating judge in Beirut Sa'id Mirza has issued an indictment decision in AL-SAFIR case. He indicted Faysal Ibrahim Salman and Ibrahim Muhammad 'Ali al-Amin in accordance with Articles 12 and 25 of Legislative Decree 104/77. Article 12 sets forth a prison term from three months to one year and Article 25 stipulates a prison term from one to three years.

The judge ordered that they should not be tried on espionage charges or on charges brought against them in accordance with Articles 281 and 283, paragraph A, due to lack of evidence of the charge of espionage. He referred them to the Beirut Appeals Court, the branch that looks into publications cases.

Court To Hear AL-SAFIR Case 20 May

NC1705105993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The Publications Court convened this afternoon with Judge 'Afif Shams-al-Din presiding and Counselors Katin Ghnam and Bernard al-Shuwayri attending. The court set 0930 on 20 May as the date for trying the AL-SAFIR newspaper case.

Prime Minister Meets With Media Editors

NC1605181793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 May 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has reiterated the government's commitment to press freedom. He said that the government has no desire to undermine freedoms. This came at a meeting al-Hariri held this afternoon with the chief editors of the Lebanese papers at his home. Health Minister Marwan Hamadah; Muhammad al-Ba'labakki, head of the Journalists Association; Milhim Karam, head of the Editors Association; and Basim al-Sab', secretary of the Journalists Association, were present at the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, al-Hariri said: Our meeting with you today is to discuss our issues. I called this meeting so that we may all remain one family. I am also a member of the media, just as you are. It is important for me to remain involved in the media's concerns. The media has been called the fourth branch of government. Your opinions matter to me just as the cabinet's opinion matters to you. Our cooperation is certainly to the country's benefit.

Lebanon is steadily regaining its health, cementing its spirit of reconciliation, and groping for full sovereignty. We should all work together at this critical phase in the country's history. This is particularly true while we are involved in negotiations that, you all know, are serious and sensitive. I know that you are all aware of the critical nature of this phase and have the sense of responsibility it requires. I wish to assure you of the government's full commitment to press freedom.

Al-Hariri was asked this question: Prime Minister, this week we have been faced with the issue of press freedom because of AL-SAFIR. As the prime minister, who is responsible for what happened, what is your opinion on this matter, considering the fact that certain quarters leaked the news to the paper?

Al-Hariri responded: What we need here is not an opinion, but action and efforts by the competent authorities to locate the source of the leak. These authorities have already been instructed to do that and are doing it. When the person who leaked the news is discovered due process will take its course and the facts will be announced.

Al-Hariri was asked another question: There is concern over press freedom. The issue surfaced with [the closure of] some television stations, then NIDA' AL-WATAN, then AL-SAFIR. What is your comment?

Al-Hariri answered: I have repeatedly said that we have no desire or intention to curb press freedom. The impression created over the past few days was that the government was clamping down on freedom, but this is untrue. I believe that those involved know that this is not true. When I assumed office, AL-SAFIR leaked this sentence [not further specified] and later invented many things in violation of the Publications Law and other laws, but I took no action. Today I read some words in a magazine that none of you, let alone me, can accept. The way I see things is this: This country is based on democracy and the supremacy of law. The law has the final say in any dispute. There was a time when law was not supreme in this country, but those days are over. The law now has the final say. [passage omitted]

ICN Business, Affiliations Discussed

NC1305141593

[Editorial Report] Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic on 10 May on pages 14-16 publishes an approximately 1,800-word unattributed report entitled: "The Centers of

Power Blew Away Henri Sfayr's Media Empire. The Revival of Semitism through the ICN." The report discusses the business aspects and political affiliation of a television station, ICN [expansion not given], and a newspaper, NIDA' AL-WATAN, controlled by Lebanese businessman and politician Henri Sfayr.

The report begins by describing the building housing ICN and NIDA' AL-WATAN and notes that Sfayr's office is on the top floor and that in addition to the newspaper and television offices, the floors below house "the employees of a quarterly, AL-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH, which specializes in international strategic affairs."

The report moves on to the financial aspects of "Henri Sfayr's Media Empire." It says Sfayr owns 51 percent of the shares of the ICN institution [reference to both the television station and the newspaper], while "the remaining 49 percent is owned by the following: Marwan Faris and Majid Sabri Hamadah, both of whom prefer not to be involved in the business; and Yusuf al-Andari, a supporter of [former Army Commander] General Michel 'Awn and an influential figure in the ICN institution. A former partner, [former Minister] Joseph al-Hashim, sold his capital following a serious dispute with those he calls in private 'centers of power' and claims that they control not only the ICN institution, but also Sfayr's decisionmaking."

The report recalls the dispute between al-Hashim and Sfayr, which developed "a short time after the publication of NIDA' AL-WATAN" and culminated in al-Hashim's breaking his association with the institution. Al-Hashim voiced concern over the "sensational" tendencies of the publication, while "the centers of power" saw otherwise and "drew Henri Sfayr to their side." The "centers of power" won and two strong men appeared in the institution. The first, Farid Salman, controls ICN television, and the second, Yusuf al-Andari, controls NIDA' AL-WATAN.

The report claims that Henri Sfayr has failed to provide an effective leadership for the institution he controls financially. It says: "Henri Sfayr failed to present a point of reference for the plans of all these forces [led by Salman and al-Andari]. His influence on events in the institution began to shrink."

The report cites "sources close to Sfayr" recounting a meeting between Sfayr and Ambassador Ryan Crocker at Sfayr's house. "An agitated Sfayr told the ambassador: Let them close ICN if they dislike me so much. Crocker answered confidently: Come what may, ICN will not be closed." The report adds: "It seems Sfayr took the answer as a sign of a U.S. decision to support Sfayr's media. This was a costly mistake for [Sfayr], the man with a finger in every pie."

The rest of the report is dedicated to a review of Farid Salman's book "The Revival of Semitism," in which he explores regional ethnic questions.

Hizballah Views Talks, Government's 'Mistake'

NC1705070393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Hizballah has issued a statement on the anniversary of the treasonous 17 May accord. It affirmed that this is not an ordinary day but one marking a historic juncture at which some Lebanese adopted an approach that nearly destroyed their country, its future, and freedom. Had the people not expressed their awareness of the magnitude of the danger which the accord entailed, Lebanon today would have been a defenseless Zionist security enclave.

Today, after more than a year since Lebanon was dragged to the negotiating table with the Zionists, there is tangible evidence that the Lebanese Government made a grave mistake when it overstepped the will of the people who brought down the accord of treachery. The Lebanese Government also made a grave mistake when it agreed to enter into negotiations planned by the United States to force the Arabs to sign a humiliating peace with a cancer from which no part of the nation's body will escape.

The Hizballah statement asked: What has Lebanon reaped from all this fanfare? How can the Lebanese Government justify continued participation in the trick of the negotiations after the enemy has declared more than once that the aim of negotiations with Lebanon is no more than reaching security arrangements?

Hizballah asked the government to quickly retract from its historic mistake, which only prompts the enemy to continue violating the land. It asserted that resistance alone can bring liberation and that through the people's actions, the invaders will be expelled and the land and violated dignities restored.

Al-Hirawi Denies Intention To Resign

NC1605065793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] In a press interview, President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stated that the public prosecutor should have referred the newspaper suspension issue to a magistrate to speed up the examination of such cases. This is what should have happened, but the law is the law. He stressed that he will not relinquish the Constitution and will uphold the law. He drew a distinction between the suspension of AL-SAFIR newspaper and the responsibility of Henri Sfayr [owner of NIDA' AL-WATAN newspaper and ICN television], accusing Sfayr of incitement and supporting certain opponents of the state.

Al-Hirawi reaffirmed that he will not just manage the country's crises, but will try to find solutions to its problems. He added: Some have quoted me as saying that I have put my resignation in my pocket. This is not true. I will not resign as long as I am able to find solutions to our problems.

Al-Hirawi expressed regret over the appearance of some aspects of decadence in Lebanese society. He affirmed that this decadence cannot continue, because the efforts to improve the situation are not commensurate with the spirit of decadence that some are trying to spread throughout all levels of private and public life.

Al-Hirawi said he supported holding the general elections despite attempts to convince him to reverse this decision, especially attempts by members of his [Maronite] community. He sidestepped these efforts, however, because he saw that holding the elections would benefit the state and people.

Al-Hirawi said there is no alternative prime minister to Rafiq al-Hariri. He cited a similar attitude by a former prime minister who was asked whether he was ready to form an alternative government.

On the peace talks, al-Hirawi said more time is required to enter into the details of the negotiations. He said he is not able to take any further steps before he sees Israel withdraw from other occupied territories. He affirmed that the negotiating process will continue to liberate the south and western al-Biqah and until a comprehensive solution is found.

Fatah, PFLP Claim Clash With SLA

NC1405194593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has announced that it carried out a second attack on an Israeli patrol near al-Tayyibah village today, but the report was not confirmed by independent sources.

Fatah and the PFLP claimed responsibility for the operation carried out near al-Qantarah at dawn today. They said a special group was preparing to carry out operations against the Israeli forces when it clashed with members of a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position.

Security sources said one SLA soldier and two PFLP fighters were killed in the clash.

Fatah Members Killed in Clash

NC1505114493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Munir al-Maqdah, Fatah Movement military official in Lebanon, has announced that two Fatah members, another member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] were killed and a third Fatah was injured in an attack on a South Lebanese Army [SLA] post in al-Qantarah.

Israeli warplanes flew at low altitude over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah before noon today.

Palestinian Deportees Begin 1-Day Hunger Strike

NC1705101993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur this morning began a hunger strike that will last until tomorrow morning. They staged a march to a nearby hill and sent messages to international forums to protest the failure of their immediate return to their country.

AL-THAWRAH Comments on Ninth Round of Peace Talks

U.S. Credibility Still on Line

JN1505095093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 May 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH deals with the ninth round of the Middle East peace talks which was concluded in Washington on 13 May. The paper comments on Israel's insistence on its stands, maneuvers, and obstruction of the peace process. It warns against the danger of playing with time, which it is sure the United States is well aware of. The paper says the United States knows that the Arabs reject that their cause be diluted at the negotiating table by Israeli formulas or working papers that are rejected in principle and that have nothing at all to do with international legitimacy and Resolutions 242 and 338. Nor do the Arabs accept that their cause be diluted by fabricated Israeli cabinet crises staged by Rabin to evade his international obligations, especially toward peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The United States cannot be deceived by such theatricals, but we do not rule out that it is satisfied with such charades simply because it relieves it of the embarrassment involved on both the U.S. and Arab fronts in playing the full-partner role. Otherwise, how would Israel be allowed to distribute roles between parties and ministers, and among rejectors of peace, extremists, and moderates? How can Israel evade the requirements of peace, at a time when the Arabs are not allowed to have among them rejectors and moderates?

AL-THAWRAH affirms: There is nothing new at all on the Syrian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Jordanian tracks of the talks. The ninth round has come to an end, yet Israel has not presented any formula, initiative, or term reflecting a desire for peace. The paper asks: Will the full partner present a positive formula that will serve as a basis for future discussions?

AL-THAWRAH urges the United States to fully play the role of a full partner the way such a role is understood and defined by international law. Specifically, this role should be played the way the United States meant it to be played when it used it to describe its role in the peace process.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH asks: Will the United States play such a role? Will it honor its promises and pledges to the Arabs and the world? The United States is still facing a test of its credibility, first and foremost.

In another article on the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says: It has become clear that in the absence of positive results, it is neither important to hold talks nor to discuss important matters. In fact, if the U.S. sponsor and partner fails to play its role in accordance with its statements and pledges, then discontinuing the talks is not worse than

continuing them this way. Therefore, the United States bears responsibility for the failure of the talks so far.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Arabs are not demanding that the U.S. Administration adopt the Arab position, but they want Washington, as the sponsor and partner, either to stop providing aid to Israel, or to provide them with aid equivalent to that given to Israel.

AL-THAWRAH affirms: If the U.S. Administration adheres to what it has declared so far, in the sense that it will not use pressure and that the issue is in the hands of the concerned parties, then the Arabs will accept this provided that Washington suspends its aid to Israel.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says: At any rate, the U.S. Administration is responsible for the failure of the talks to achieve any positive results because it has not dealt with Israel, the aggressor and defier of the international legitimacy, the way it has with aggressors elsewhere in the world. When will the Arabs and the world feel that the U.S. pledges are credible?

Israeli Position Unchanged

JN1605074793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 May 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In a comment, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH indicates that the ninth round of talks, which did not yield any mentionable result, was the first to be held in the era of U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration, which has reiterated its commitment to the U.S. assurances, the spirit of the initiative of former President George Bush's administration, and the bases of the peace process. The paper says that this commitment leads to the assertion that the peace process will continue on the same bases. Consequently, any attempt to judge the results should take two points into consideration. First, one and a half years have passed since the beginning of the peace process, yet no progress has been achieved. Second, Israel has not changed its behavior, either in light of the change of the U.S. Administration or under the new Israeli Government. This means that Israel's policy is to disregard any factors outside the Israeli elements affecting Israel's position on the peace issue.

AL-THAWRAH explains that since the first moment of the peace process, there has been clear Israeli insistence on refusing to seriously discuss the issue of withdrawal in implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. This is because Israel proceeds from one strategic view based on the slogan that land is more important than peace. Therefore, Shamir's slogan has been: Peace in return for peace. He has never mentioned territory, except when Israel publicly declared that its objective is to have both land and peace.

Concluding its comment, AL-THAWRAH stresses the need for Washington to play its promised role as a full partner, provided that this role is fair and impartial, demands the implementation of UN resolutions, and does not allow Israel to undermine the peace process.

Afghanistan

Further Reportage on Factional Fighting in Kabul

Missiles Kill 59, Injure 202

LD1305174893 *Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1715 GMT 14 May 93*

[Text] More than 200 missiles were fired on Kabul city today. As a result, 59 innocent and defenseless compatriots were martyred and another 202 people were injured.

Mas'ud Denies Bombing in Kabul

LD1405104493 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 May 93*

[Text] Dozens of people were injured and a number of houses were destroyed when the warring sides in Kabul attacked each other's positions today, using light and heavy artillery.

Meanwhile the Afghan Defense Ministry has denied it carried out an aerial bombardment of the city of Kabul and its suburbs. In a telephone interview with our correspondent today, an Afghan Defense Ministry official said: Yesterday several Afghan Air Force aircraft staged a maneuver over Kabul and its suburbs, but they did not carry out any kind of military operation.

Western correspondents based in Kabul reported yesterday that a number of Afghan Government aircraft had targeted parts of Kabul and its suburbs.

Casualty Toll Rises

BK1405125093 *Hong Kong AFP in English 1223 GMT 14 May 93*

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, May 14 (AFP)—The Afghan capital was reeling Friday under a third day of intense fighting between rival factions in which fierce rocket bombardments raised the casualty toll by more than 100.

Medical workers at two of Kabul's five functioning hospitals said around 100 wounded had been admitted to the facilities which are already struggling to cope with the more than 1,200 people injured since fighting began Wednesday.

By noon a hospital run by the French aid group *Medicins sans Frontieres* (Doctors without Borders) had admitted 44 people, three of whom had died from shrapnel wounds.

Civilians continued to bear the brunt of the fighting between government troops under Defence Minister Ahmed Shah Mas'ud and two opposed mujahedin factions.

The battle began three days ago with the capture of Dehmazang Square in southern Kabul, which came under a punishing rocket bombardment early Friday.

"More than 300 rockets have landed on us by my count," said one shell-shocked resident.

Even as the area burst with rocket explosions an elderly man and his son vainly tried to subdue the flames in three demolished houses by throwing bricks into the ruins, while a lone woman bent with age struggled to hand-pump water into buckets from a public well.

The Hezb-i-Islami [Islamic Party] headed by ethnic Pashtun leader Golboddin Hekmatyar sent several rockets onto the airport from missile batteries outside the city, forcing civilian flights to divert to the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

Mas'ud has been trying to prise fighters of the Iranian-backed Hezb-i-Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] mujahedin from their firmly entrenched positions in the south of the capital. Wahdat have joined sides with Hekmatyar's group in the fratricidal battles that have devastated Kabul.

Government troops have been bogged down in the south of Kabul after launching an attack against forces of two factions who have been maintaining a blockade of the city.

Mas'ud's tanks cleared several bunkers of mujahedin fighters from the Wahdat but his forces came under fierce attack from the group.

At the same time the Hezb tightened their grip on an isolated government outpost south of the city and took the former royal palace of Darulaman from its Uzbek defenders.

The fighting and the firestorm of missiles and shells unleashed by both sides have left more than a thousand dead or injured, according to the International Committee for the Red Cross.

The powerful Uzbek warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam has ordered his troops into action on the government's side after remaining aloof from fighting in January and February.

But clashes in the centre of Kabul between some of Dostam's forces and government troops have brought into question the strength of the alliance, although Uzbek leaders in the city blamed the incident on poor discipline.

General Abdul Momen, Dostam's top officer in Kabul, has said the Uzbek forces are solidly behind the government.

"Reinforcements are being flown from the north in order to protect Kabul," Momen said.

Western experts believe that Dostam, "the northern emir," has around 50,000 men under arms. His 4,000 to

5,000 men in Kabul have the advantage that they did not take part in the exhausting round of fighting that rocked the city in February.

Concerted intervention by the Uzbeks could tip the balance and bring an end to the military status quo that has prevailed since the fall of the communist government in April 1992.

This fresh round of fighting marks the definitive failure of a peace accord signed by seven mojahedin factions in Islamabad on March 7. The agreement, regarded with considerable scepticism when it was signed, has been completely ignored in recent weeks.

Factions Announce Cease-Fire

BK1505064893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0635 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Kabul, May 15 (AFP)—Rival Afghan factions announced a ceasefire Friday after three days of fighting left more than 2,500 dead or injured and devastated swathes of the capital.

A 15-member delegation from all the Mojahedin groups brokered the ceasefire between Defence Ministry forces and two rival factions but several rockets landed on the city after the fighting was supposed to have stopped at 10:00 p.m. Friday (1730 GMT).

"The ceasefire covers the use of all weapons without exception but since the frontlines are very close in the battlefield it is very difficult to control the small-arms fire," delegation member Shah Jan said.

Fighting between Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's forces and the two rival Mojahedin factions began Wednesday when Mas'ud launched an attack in south Kabul in an attempt to rescue besieged government garrisons.

'Shaky' Cease-Fire Goes Into Effect

BK1505071493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0706 GMT 15 May 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, May 15 (AFP)—Most heavy guns fell silent here Saturday as a shaky ceasefire between rival Afghan factions went in effect after three days of fighting and more than 2,500 dead or injured.

"The ceasefire came into effect from 10 PM last night (1730 GMT Friday)," said Dr. Shah Jan, a member of the delegation which brokered the truce. He said the 15-member peace delegation drawn from different factions had hammered out the ceasefire between Defence Ministry forces and two rival factions late Friday.

It was primarily aimed at stopping the devastating heavy weapons fire which has turned large swathes of the capital into rubble and left some 2,500 dead and injured since Wednesday according to hospital statistics. But

several long range missiles crashed into the city early Saturday morning after the fighting was supposed to have stopped, raising fears among shell-shocked residents that it would continue.

"The ceasefire covers the use of all weapons without exception but since the frontlines are very close in the battlefield it is very difficult to control the small-arms fire," Shah Jan said.

Fighting between Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's forces and the two rival mojahedin factions began Wednesday when Mas'ud launched an attack in south Kabul in an attempt to rescue besieged government garrisons.

Mas'ud failed to relieve his posts which were captured by his rivals for power in Kabul, an Iranian-backed Shiite group, and Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar's Pushtun Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction.

Radio Kabul reported 200 rockets and mortars fired into the capital Thursday, killing 59 and wounding 202.

Speaking to AFP by phone from the military headquarters of Abdol Ali Mazari, leader of the rival Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] faction, the Wahdat Chief of Army Staff reported the military situation in south Kabul relatively calm with "a little skirmishing between the posts of both sides".

General Khoda Dad said that although the current fighting was initiated by Mas'ud, Wahdat was looking for peace.

"Mazari is against the fighting and supports not only the ceasefire but also peace in all Afghanistan," Khoda Dad said.

In the eastern provincial capital of Jalalabad where a meeting of mojahedin faction leaders has been underway for the past 15 days in an effort to resolve the political crisis engulfing Afghanistan, "final agreement" was promised by Saturday.

Western observers are sceptical of a positive result, saying the main stumbling block between rival faction chiefs is the role of Defence Minister Mas'ud. Mas'ud is backed by President Borhanoddin Rabbani but opposed by his long-time personal foe Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Clashes Die Down; Airport Reopens

LD1505112893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Kabul is relatively calm today. According to a report by our correspondent, clashes have died down compared with the past four days. People have begun their comings and goings and trade centers are open in the capital city of Kabul.

According to the same report, Kabul airport, closed since last Thursday because of the severity of the fighting, has opened to flights as relative calm has returned.

Our correspondent, who is in Kabul, add: People who have had enough of the clashes between rival groups have now pinned their hopes on the Jalalabad meeting and insist that the leaders of the jihadi groups agree to end their hostilities and the bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Jets Bomb Southern Kabul

BK1505154793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1517 GMT 15 May 93

[by Terene White]

[Text] Kabul, May 15 (AFP)—A ceasefire announced early Saturday lasted only until noon, when Afghan government jets bombed posts captured recently from Defence Ministry forces in south Kabul, as well as the military headquarters of the rival Mojahedin factions. The high-altitude bombing runs missed the headquarters of Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar, located 20 kilometres (12 miles) southeast of Kabul at Charasiab. But in the south Kabul district of Darulaman, which was captured by Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] guerrillas Wednesday, several more bombs were dropped on the rival Mojahedin, which included units of an Iranian-backed Shiite faction. The bodies of five government soldiers were seen lying amid the fire-blackened ruins of one Defence Ministry garrison held by the Hezb. Teenage soldiers of the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] faction posted just one kilometre (half a mile) from the Darulaman Palace on the main road leading to Charasiab narrowly escaped death when two bombs landed in the middle of the road by their position but failed to explode. One jet dropped at least one cluster bomb, a device consisting of a large number of small bombs which fan out over a large area after the main unit breaks open in the air. South Kabul residents said surface-to-air missiles were fired at the government jets but failed to make a hit. Government jets attempting to repulse the rival factions from another captured garrison post in south Kabul apparently dropped at least three bombs on a now-closed eye hospital run by a foreign-based charity but not a Hezb position. The ceasefire pact between the government and the joint rival factions which was announced just a few hours earlier by a peace delegation member seemed at best premature in view of the bombings and a late afternoon rocket exchange. Delegation member Haji Abu Bakr, the Hezb commander in charge of the captured Darulaman area, told AFP any ceasefire with the government was conditional. "The only way for a real and permanent ceasefire to be established is for the implementation of the Islamabad accords," said Abu Bakr. Bakr was referring to the March agreement signed in Pakistan between all Mojahedin faction leaders in which Hekmatyar was nominated prime minister with the duty to form a cabinet, which he has failed to do because of a lack of consensus among the leaders. The

defence portfolio is particularly contentious. It is controlled by Hekmatyar's bitter rival, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. Bakr also accused the government of firing rockets on Hezb positions from the central Kabul mountaintop which houses the capital's television transmitter tower. "The government should use that channel to send messages of benefit to the people. Instead they use it to bombard us," said Bakr.

Further on Bombing

LD1605150493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, and its suburbs were the scene of heavy exchanges between various fighting factions. According to a report dispatched by the IRIB correspondent in Kabul, Afghan Government military planes bombed some of the fighting areas in Kabul. The Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-e [Islamic Unity Party] of Afghanistan has proposed that in order to establish a cease-fire west of Kabul, the National Islamic Movement [NIM] forces in Kabul should be stationed along the dividing lines between the fighting forces.

General Fawzi, the commander of the NIM forces, in an interview with our correspondent stressed that his forces are fully prepared to be positioned along the dividing line between the fighting forces in the western district of Kabul. He added: Talks are in progress with the military officials of the Islamic State of Afghanistan on the proposal made by the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-e.

On the basis of this report, Kabul airport was open today and flights to Saudi Arabia and India took place.

India

Parliament Passes Two Terrorism Prevention Bills

BK1505034693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Parliament has passed the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Amendment [TADA] Bill 1993. The Lok Sabha passed the bill yesterday with a voice vote, while the Rajya Sabha had passed the bill on 28 April. The bill seeks to extend the duration of TADA for another two years. Replying to the debate, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, assured the house that adequate steps are being taken to prevent the misuse of its provisions. He said the extradition treaty signed with Britain has sent the right message in Europe to the terrorists operating from there. Mr. Chavan said New Delhi will sign soon such treaties with Arab countries to prevent terrorist activities in the country. The opposition members, criticizing the bill, expressed fears that it may be used against political workers. They also argued that it is against the fundamental rights of the citizens of the country.

Parliament has passed the Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill. The Lok Sabha passed the bill yesterday with a voice vote, while the Rajya Sabha had passed it on 28 April. The bill provides for transfer of persons involved in terrorist activities for assisting in investigation. The bill also provides for enforcement of attachment and forfeiture orders in regard to properties as issued by a court in another country. Members unanimously welcomed the bill.

Militants Raid Police Station in Kashmir

BK1505164093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1051 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] New Delhi, May 15 (AFP)—Moslem rebels stormed into a police station early Saturday in the frontier Kashmir district of Kupwara and fled with all the firearms and ammunition stocked there, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

State officials said the Kashmiri separatists raided the police station shortly after midnight and overpowered the security forces.

The Vilgam police station, which is close to the Pakistani border, had been "virtually under control of the Army since 1989," they said.

Meanwhile, curfew has been relaxed for six hours in the town of Bhaderwah near Jammu, Kashmir's winter capital, but remained in force in other parts of the troubled Doda District, including Kishtwar, PTI said.

The restrictions had been in force since Tuesday following Hindu-Moslem clashes fueled by the alleged killing of a Hindu by Moslem militants.

One person died and several houses and shops were torched during the violence.

Thousands have died during a four-year campaign waged by Moslem separatists for the secession of Kashmir, India's only Moslem majority state.

Police Seize Huge Cache of Arms in Punjab

BK1605130293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] In Punjab, the Bhatinda District police have captured the biggest ever cache of weapons and explosive materials from the militants. They include 31 AK-47 rifles, two general purpose machine guns, one imported dragon rifle, two self-loading rifles, and 113 AK-47 magazines. Disclosing this to newsmen, the Punjab police director general, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, said that ten terrorists have been arrested in this connection. Meanwhile, a dreaded terrorist, Sher Jang Singh Shera was killed in an encounter with the police last night.

Advanced Light Helicopter Undergoing Tests

BK1705040893 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The second prototype of the Advanced Light Helicopter [ALH], a multi-role state-of-the-art machine, is undergoing tests in Bangalore. This helicopter has been indigenously built by HAL [Hindustan Aeronautics Limited] with technical support from Eurocopter, Germany.

[Begin correspondent Maya Jaydeep's recording with wide shots of helicopter parked on runway, taking off in rotary motion; medium shots of equipment installed in cabin and cockpit] The second prototype of the Advanced Light Helicopter, ALH, is designed to give air superiority in military operations. It can perform a variety of missions such as the aerial scout, anti-tank gunship fire control, light troops transport, search and rescue, surveillance and training. The ALH is ideal for off-shore operations where speed and flexibility are crucial. It also helps to rescue victims from inaccessible places and can be used as a flying ambulance. Equipped with wheeled and retractable landing gear, the helicopter is capable of turning on the spot. It helps erect relay stations on mountaintops and install powerlines in tropical forests. The large cabin size enables the ALH to carry bulky loads or an underslung load of up to 1,500 kg. The helicopter can land on sea without affecting general speed and range capability. Advanced navigation systems, radars, autopilot flying facilities, and a wide view cockpit enables the ALH to operate in all kinds of weather. The first prototype of the ALH took off in June last year and is also undergoing various tests. [end recording]

Minister Views 'Difficult' Economic Decisions

BK1605033693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has indicated that some more difficult decisions have to be taken to fully realize the immense growth potential of the economy. He was speaking at a function held in New Delhi where the award of Asia's finance minister of the year was conferred on him. The finance minister said that fiscal consolidation has to receive priority attention to control inflation and the balance of payments position. He said the world community today recognizes that India has, perhaps, one of the smoothest ongoing adjustment-cum-structural reform program. He said the balance of payments position has improved, inflation is down and growth has started to look up, but maintained that the country is not yet out of difficulties. Dr. Manmohan Singh said the crisis will have to be converted into an opportunity to restructure the economy.

Instituted by an Asian journal ASIA MONEY, the award was presented by its publisher Curren Chambers. Speaking on the occasion, the editor of the general, Mr. Graham Fields, said that the Indian economy under Dr. Singh has achieved success in short-term management and in securing the foundations for the long term.

Israel's Peres Begins 3-Day Visit 17 May

BK1705075093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Israel, Mr. Shim'on Peres, arrived in New Delhi today on a three-day official visit. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, met Mr. Shim'on Peres and discussed with him prospects of strengthening bilateral cooperation with Israel. Both the leaders discussed the international situation, particularly the West Asia peace process.

The Israel foreign minister, during his stay, will meet the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. He will also hold talks with the finance, agriculture and commerce ministers.

Cooperation on Aid to CIS Assured

TA1705090793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] India will help Israel establish diplomatic ties with Asian countries. Correspondent Shlomo Raz, who is accompanying Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on his Asian tour, reports that this apparently refers to efforts to establish ties with Indonesia. Peres conferred with the Indian minister of state for external affairs this morning. They agreed that the two states will cooperate on providing aid to the CIS republics. The matter of missing navigator Ron Arad was also broached. The foreign minister welcomed India's involvement in the multilateral talks.

Belarus Premier Pledges To Honor Soviet Commitments

BK1505130293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] The Belarus prime minister, Mr. Vyacheslav F. Kebich, has said his country will honor all the commitments made to India before the collapse of the Soviet Union. Speaking at a dinner hosted by the Federation of Indian Export Organizations in Bombay, he said all projects already underway in his country will be completed. He said that his visit to India has convinced him that there is a genuine commitment on the part of India to establish trade links with the Commonwealth of Independent States. Mr. Kebich said the series of agreements signed between the two countries will open more channels to establish strong commercial links. The Belarus prime minister also invited Indian delegations to study the areas of cooperation between the two nations.

Vice President Leaves for 12-Day UK Visit

BK1605081093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] The vice president left for London this morning on a 12-day official visit to the United Kingdom. Mr. K.R. Narayanan will have meetings with the British

prime minister, Mr. John Major, and other senior leaders during his stay there. The vice president will also call on Queen Elizabeth at the Buckingham Palace.

Iran

Velayati Returns From Bali NAM Meeting

LD1405133193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 May 93

[Excerpt] The foreign affairs minister, Mr. ['Ali Akbar] Velayati, who headed a delegation to Mali and Indonesia and took part in the second meeting of the Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM], returned to Tehran this morning. [passage omitted]

Velayati on Talks, Brunei Relations

LD1505160093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 15 May 93

[Excerpts] The minister of foreign affairs took part in a news conference today in which he described the most important results of his trip to Malaysia and Brunei and his participation in the second session of the Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Non-aligned Movement.

Mr. Velayati described the most important aim of the session as setting the direction for cooperation between the countries of the South, North-South cooperation, and coordinating cooperation between the countries of the South with parts of the United Nations that are active in economic fields.

He described the meetings held at the session in Bali, Indonesia, as beneficial for giving shape to South-South cooperation and added: One of the points that was raised by the participants—by way of a protest to the influence of industrial countries in the United Nations—was that industrial countries should not take advantage of their economic relations with the South as a political lever. [passage omitted]

Later in the news conference, the foreign minister described the establishment of relations with Brunei, as an Islamic, oil and gas producing ASEAN member country, as important. He added that the country's embassy will open in Tehran in the next few weeks, and the Islamic Republic of Iran will soon open an embassy in the capital of Brunei.

Foreign Ministry on Situation in Afghanistan

Ministry Condemns Latest Clashes

LD1505173893 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry here Saturday deplored the on-going clashes in Afghanistan and said Iran has always maintained that negotiations between the mojahedin leaders in Afghanistan is the only solution to the internal rift.

A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, however, expressed hope that the current clashes in Afghanistan would soon be halted.

Rival groups in Afghanistan, meanwhile, pounded each other's positions Saturday using heavy weapons though Kabul city was relatively calmer than it was on previous days.

Hospital sources in Kabul did not disclose the number of Saturday casualties, but a Red Cross official said that many injured persons here and there cannot be taken to hospitals because of continuing shooting.

The same official said that several missiles hit the children's ward of the Red Cross hospital Friday injuring several children and hospital workers.

Bodies, both of militarymen and civilians, lie here and there and the Kabul airport closed to all planes later Saturday.

Ministry Calls For Talks

LD1505175193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Following clashes in the last few days in Kabul which led to the death and injury of a large number of Muslim residents of the city, the spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry this afternoon expressed the deep regrets of the Islamic Republic of Iran and hoped that the fighting will end as quickly as possible and that negotiations will start between the warring factions to end the present problems.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: As stated repeatedly, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes talks between the leaders of the jihadi groups is the only way to end the problems of Afghanistan and that military clashes cannot solve the problems of the country.

Commentary Examines Causes Behind Kabul Clashes

NC1605115393 Mashhad Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dari 1430 GMT 13 May 93

[Station commentary: "Who Is Responsible for the Chaos and Bloodshed in Kabul?"]

(Text) Thousands of Kabul residents staged protests on 9 May over the lack of security in the cities and the killing of women and children. The demonstrators called for establishing peace, security, and freeing prisoners who have been arrested during clashes over the past year.

The recent clashes in Kabul have affected more than 100,000 families in that city. Of these, 80 percent have been forced to abandon their homes. The demonstrators adopted a resolution following their protests and called on the domestic and foreign mass media to convey the cry of the oppressed Muslim people of Kabul to the entire world. When the leaders of the Hezb-e Eslami

[Islamic Party] and Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society] parties—Golboddin Hekmatyar and Borhanoddin Rabbani—shook hands in Islamabad in March in the presence of the Iranian and Saudi delegations as a sign of friendship and kissed one another, numerous political analysts of Afghan affairs expressed doubt that this friendship would continue.

This is because the differences between Hekmatyar and Rabbani are far too deep to be resolved at an ordinary table before television cameras. Thus, when the Islamabad conference ended, it was quite predictable that Hekmatyar, as the new prime minister, would not be successful in eliciting Rabbani's concurrence on his newly elected cabinet. As a result, the cease-fire that had been agreed at the Islamabad conference only succeeded in prolonging the existing state of weakness. The domestic atmosphere in Kabul was fraught with tension again when Rabbani rejected the list of ministers proposed by Hekmatyar. The threat of war once again loomed over the city.

As a result, the fighting, confusion, and struggle continue today. A group of Afghan politicians believes that the covert hands of those who do not want an Islamic and cultured country near the borders of the newly independent Central Asian countries are involved in these events. They also argue that Western countries as well as Russia are terrified of the prospect of an Islamic Afghanistan contiguous to Iran. These countries believe that stability in Afghanistan would pave the way for an Islamic uprising in the republics of the former Soviet Union.

In such circumstances, it appears that extreme restraint on the part of the warring groups and an effort to resolve problems and differences through negotiations would yield extensive and positive results. Ostensibly, however, the groups enmeshed in this imbroglio do not realize the extent of their mutual hostilities and believe that the other sides will never accept reciprocal proposals or support them. The lust for power, satisfying egos, and group worship rampant among the Afghan groups and their leaders is so obsessive that they only consider their own stances as logical and consider the other sides as their enemies.

Therefore, since spring of last year—when Afghanistan was liberated from the yoke of Russia's aggressive forces—the fronts of civil strife in this country have undergone frequent changes, and there is not one of these splinter groups that has not played a role in at least one or a series of bloody conflicts, which have resulted in many casualties. Unfortunately the main factor, which has never been considered by the Afghan dissident groups, involves the rights of the tyrannized people of this country.

In truth, what is the sin of the Afghan nation? What is the sin committed by the women and children, whose mud huts, whose homes are razed over their heads in the middle of the night, even though they have no leanings

toward any of the embroiled parties? They are buried under mounds of debris and are sacrificed at the altar of the dissident groups' warmongering. The leaders must answer these questions.

Further Reportage, Commentary on Mubarak Gulf Trip

Said To Find No Support Against Iran

LD1605174193 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 93*

[Text] The head of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak, today ended his one-week visit to the six countries of the Persian Gulf region. Foreign news agencies report that he failed to realize his objectives during this visit.

During the last leg of his trip, he met King Fahd of Saudi Arabia before returning home today. AFP reported today that Husni Mubarak had asked to form a joint front of the Arab states to confront the danger posed by the Islamic Republic of Iran during his meetings with the responsible officials of the countries in the Persian Gulf region. Thanks to the hesitation of the Persian Gulf Arab states, however, Mubarak failed to convince them.

According to diplomatic sources in the region, most of the countries visited by Mubarak do not believe at all that the Islamic Republic of Iran is posing any danger. Even the United Arab Emirates is seeking to expand trade relations with Iran. According to these sources, by alleging that Iran is behind activities of the Egyptian Muslims, Mubarak is trying to distract attention from the economic and political problems facing his regime.

Commentary Views Purpose of Tour

NC1605184293 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 May 93*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak arrived in Riyadh yesterday evening on an official visit in the course of his tour of Persian Gulf states. The tour began with a visit to Oman last Sunday, and then covered Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Kuwait, and Qatar. The Egyptian president's visit to Saudi Arabia is the last stage in this tour. Issues pertaining to bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process, and the security agreement known as the two-plus-six agreement dominated the talks in these countries. The phenomenon of the growing Islamic trend also featured prominently in Mubarak's talks with officials in these countries.

Observers noted that the ambiguity surrounding the future of the Damascus agreement, which was signed by the six Gulf Cooperation Council states together with Egypt and Syria after the war in the Persian Gulf, was also discussed. The issue of the Islamic trend was the subject of serious discussion during Mubarak's meetings with the leaders of these countries. The Damascus joint

security agreement, known as the two-plus-six agreement, was concluded after the coalition forces led by the United States succeeded in ending the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. The agreement represented a step toward guaranteeing the security of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council states. But the developments that followed and the conclusion of military agreements and defense pacts between some of these states—such as Kuwait, Bahrain, and the UAE—with the United States, Britain, and France took the limelight from the Damascus agreement. It became clear that the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council states had new ideas regarding their defense and security policies. They were no longer enthusiastic about implementing the Damascus agreement.

Putting aside the political aspect of the issue, what interests the Egyptian regime is the economic aspect. For this reason, Egypt has been exerting noticeable efforts to revive the Damascus agreement, which provided for financial and economic aid and loans totalling \$10 billion to Egypt and Syria. Mubarak's Gulf tour also sought to achieve other objectives. Egypt, as it is known, is experiencing growing political and economic difficulties, and is facing a serious challenge as a result of the growing Islamic trend. By raising and exaggerating the danger of the Islamic trend in the area, the Egyptian regime is trying to cover up its internal crises and the failure of the peace negotiations. By exaggerating the phenomena of the Islamic trend, this regime at the same time wants to create pretexts for establishing a military and political presence in the area.

Nevertheless, despite what the Zionist and U.S. media have said about this visit, it seems that its results did not match the Egyptian president's dreams and aspirations.

Athens Talks on Bosnia Called 'Insipid Masquerade'

NC1405132593 *Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 May 93 p 2*

[Editorial: "The Athens Masquerade"]

[Text] The results of the conference in Athens, which was held with the participation of the Serbian, Croatian and Bosnian leaders, was unfortunately nil.

The Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic accepted the Vance-Owen scheme, but apparently that was not sufficient, and needed the approval of the self-styled Bosnian Serb parliament, which rejected it. And after the Bosnian Serb parliament reached its recent decision, the republics of Serbia and Montenegro imposed new restrictions against the Bosnian Serbs.

A close review of the events of the past two weeks will reveal that for the following reasons the Athens conference resembled more an insipid masquerade than a serious peace conference.

1. To convene the conference in a country which could not possibly be impartial, has blatantly ignored all Security Council resolutions, and has even given assistance to the war criminals, already betrayed the ulterior motives of the organizers of the conference.

2. The conference was held at a time when the U.S. was considering military intervention, and for that reason Washington had despatched its foreign secretary to Europe. Consequently the European supporters of the Serbs organized the Athens conference to buy time for the Serbs to finish the job of ethnic cleansing.

3. To assign the task of the acceptance of a peace plan upon a group of war criminals, who should stand trial, and to bestow on them the appellation of the Serbian parliament, are in themselves attempts to deceive the world public.

4. The most ridiculous aspect of the affair is the announcement of imposition of restrictions on the Serbs by Belgrade. It is quite obvious that this is an attempt on the part of Belgrade to break out of the political isolation, and to pre-empt any possible international punitive measures against them. It is doubtful, though, that they have managed to fool anybody.

Perhaps the most deplorable part of the Athens masquerade is the wholehearted attempt of the Western media to create the hope that something was being done in earnest. For instance, what has been broadcast by BBC in the past 10 days regarding this masquerade only serves to prove that this media organization is a tool in the hands of the London leaders in the implementation of their sinister designs and their support of the war criminals.

Official on ABC Arms, Relations With Europe

NC1405133393 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
5 May 93 pp 1, 15

[City Desk report on "exclusive" interview with Dr. Hamid Reza 'Asefi, Foreign Ministry director general for Western Europe Affairs—place and date not given]

[Text] Tehran—A senior official of the Foreign Ministry said that the recent visit of the Iranian parliamentary delegation to Bonn has further solidified Irano-German relations.

Foreign Ministry Director General in Charge of West Europe Dr. Hamid Reza 'Asefi said that Germany and Iran have "had considerably good economic and commercial relations."

"Germany in fact, was on the top of bilateral trade with Iran," Dr. 'Asefi said adding "both countries traded goods worth 8 billion marks last year."

"Of course we have some problems such as imbalance in trade which is in favor of Germany," the director general said and pointed out that talks were held recently in

Bonn and several decisions had been taken which would improve the present trends in reciprocal trade.

Dr. 'Asefi was referring to last week's visit of the Iranian parliamentary delegation headed by Deputy Speaker of the Majles Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Ruhani.

Ruhani was reciprocating a German parliamentary delegation visit headed by Hans Sterchen [as published] to Iran in October 1991. During their stay here the German Member of Parliament invited the Iranian Majles deputy to Bonn.

Iran-German relations have been improving in recent years as high-level contacts between the officials of the two countries have been taking place very often.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani talked by phone several times and exchanged views on issues of a regional, international and bilateral nature.

"You know that parliamentarians play a vital role in creating public opinion and exchanges of visits by MPs of both countries have a favorable impact both in Germany and Iran," Dr. 'Asefi said.

In an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES Dr. 'Asefi said that last year, besides him, Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the deputy foreign minister in-charge of Euro-American affairs visited Germany and held useful exchanges of views.

The recent visit of the Iranian Majles deputies and their talks in Germany will open doors of reciprocal cooperation wider in various areas, Dr. 'Asefi said.

He said that several unfinished industrial plants such as the Bushehr Power Plant could be completed as a result of talks held in Bonn. During their stay in Bonn the Iranian Majlesmen met with Chancellor Kohl, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and several other important personalities.

The cultural agreement signed by Iran and Germany in 1985 is still in cold storage and the parliaments of the two countries have to give a green light for translation into practice.

"I think, it will take some time and everything will go smoothly and in the interests of the people of both countries," Dr. 'Asefi said.

The Iranian official who was once ambassador in East Germany said, "We are ready to cooperate with our friendly countries on human rights issues and other matters related to peace and stability in the region and in the world as a whole."

Dr. 'Asefi highlighted a decision taken by the Members of the Parliaments of the two countries for dialogue on Islam by the Muslims and the West.

"You know despite all efforts the West fails to understand Islam and its value for which face-to-face talks can be held so that misunderstandings could be removed," Dr. 'Asefi said.

"A German delegation will arrive here in Iran to initiate the process of dialogue and we hope that it will have far-reaching result on making Islam understood in the Western world," he said.

Dr. 'Asefi said that Iran is ready join hands with any country or countries or international agencies to eradicate so-called ABC or atomic, biological and chemical weapons plants from the region.

"We really want this region of the Middle East to be free of such deadly weapons," Dr. 'Asefi said and vowed that Iran is even ready to dismantle all plants which were built for producing such weapons by the Shah's regime before the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

"Yes, Iran is ready to clean this region from such enemies of human beings and also ready for the cooperation with other countries," Dr. 'Asefi officially announced.

Commenting on Franco-Iran relations Dr. 'Asefi said the recent visit of Deputy Minister Va'ez and his talks with his French counterparts has paved the way for further deepening of ties between Paris and Tehran.

He said that the two countries' trade is worth \$2 billion and Iran is the second most important oil exporter to France.

"France comparatively has an independent policy and recently a moderate government is in power so we can expect better relations between the two countries," Dr. 'Asefi said.

"Whenever a moderate government comes into power in France, its relations with Iran become better," Dr. 'Asefi believes.

Dr. 'Asefi again referring to the recently held elections in France in which the Socialists received a crushing defeat said, "The verdict in the elections entirely concerns the people of a country and we respect the people's decision whatever it may be."

In the same way Iran's relations with Spain are good and bilateral trade had already touched the level of \$1 billion, Dr. 'Asefi said.

Dr. Velayati is due to visit Madrid soon, Dr. 'Asefi said and underlined the fact that the second meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission will be held soon in Tehran. The first such meeting was held in Madrid in Nov. 1992.

"You know that Spain will play a more effective role in the overall affairs in Europe," he said.

On ties with Italy Dr. 'Asefi said that the previous unstable political situation in Italy was the great obstacle in bilateral relations with Italy.

After the recent developments and expected stability in that country it is hoped that politico-economic activities of the two countries will start smoothly.

"Iran is the second biggest exporter of oil to Italy and its hoped that in future both the countries will cooperate with each others in various areas," Dr. 'Asefi said.

Rabin 'Accusations' on Nuclear Arms Called 'False'

*LD1505064793 Tehran IRNA in English 0556 GMT
15 May 93*

[Text] Athens, May 15, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here Friday rejected accusations by the head of the Zionist regime made on a Greek Television on Iran's nuclear capability as "false and baseless". In a press release issued Thursday in response to comments made by Yitzhaq Rabin in an interview with Greek state-run Television ET-1 last month, the embassy reiterated that Tehran had no plans to make nuclear bombs.

In the TV-interview the head of the Zionist regime alleged that Iran was planning to make nuclear weapons and that it was a threat to the region. The release underlined that Tehran not only has no plan to reach nuclear weapon capability, but is one of the advocates of the convention for the destruction of chemical weapons, has signed the Non-proliferation Treaty and supports the policy of elimination and destruction of all weapons of mass destruction. "In contrast, the occupying regime of Palestine has had its army equipped with nuclear weapons for well over the last decade, and with its refusal to join the treaty banning nuclear weapons, does not permit the experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to visit its nuclear facilities".

"Stockpiling nuclear weapons in this occupied land will not only create various threats against the countries of the region, but directly endanger the security of the region of the Middle East, the Mediterranean and Europe," the press release said.

"The so-called Israeli regime has been established through killings, creation of terror, expulsion and threats against the original residents of Palestine and has continued this policy of aggression during the past 40 years since its establishment".

It stressed that Iran is the only country in the region which has not any territorial claim against any of its neighbours and according to its Constitution any kind of intervention in the affairs of other countries is rejected.

"Iran has consistently supported the strengthening of peace and stability in the region of the Middle East and believes that continuation of occupation of the Palestine and Arab lands is the only issue of insecurity, instability and threat against peace in the region," it said.

IRNA Views Hamas, PLO Coalition With Iran*LD1505140893 Tehran IRNA in English 1341 GMT
15 May 93*

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—The Palestinian Islamic Movement, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], in a statement has called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to seek a coalition with Iran rather than reconcile with Israel, according to a newspaper report.

'KEYHAN HAVAI', the overseas edition of KAYHAN, said in a report to appear in the weekly's May 19 issue that the Hamas statement was issued in Amman, Jordan but it did not say when.

Hamas said the PLO's policy of reconciliation with Israel was harming the Palestinian cause and accused the PLO leadership of trying to help implement U.S.-Israeli schemes which deprive the Palestinians of their basic rights.

"The PLO is trying to limit the struggle of the Palestinian nation to Palestinian groups and divide the nation," regretted Hamas.

This is at a time some Western publications have claimed that Hamas has sought assistance from Iran to help it remove the PLO from its position as representative of the Palestinians, KEYHAN HAVAI commented.

Hamas, it wrote, opposes PLO policies which now centre around reaching a peace settlement with Israel in return for land, a policy which the Israelis have totally rejected.

The ninth round of the Middle East peace talks ended in failure after an elapse of 18 months last Thursday in Washington, despite America's unprecedented intervention in the form of a proposal to bridge the gap between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Foreign Minister Velayati Leaves for Spain*LD1605134293 Tehran IRIB Television Second
Program Network in Persian 1315 GMT 16 May 93*

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran for Spain this afternoon at the official invitation of his Spanish counterpart.

Mr. Velayati is later to meet senior Spanish officials and discuss bilateral, regional, and European issues with them.

President on Economic Policy, Banking System*LD1505163893 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1430 GMT 15 May 93*

[Excerpt] If the people did not have confidence in the future and if they thought it likely that the value of their money would decline, they would certainly not put their savings at the disposal of the country's banking system.

President ['Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani], speaking to banking personnel and directors, referred to a 250-percent growth in savings in banks and a 30-percent growth in long-term savings, said this demonstrates the people's level of confidence in the banking system and is a sign of the positive direction of the government's economic policy.

Referring to anxieties which were present in connection with the move to a single exchange rate for foreign currency, Rafsanjani said that during the past four years the government has moved beyond a difficult period and has succeeded in implementing a [single rate] system. It will continue to pursue this process in a natural manner during the second [five year] plan and problems will be resolved gradually.

Rafsanjani stressed the need for strengthening the value of the rial relative to other foreign currencies, saying that this is an important year because an equilibrium has been established between the value of foreign currencies and the rial [by making the market rate the only rate of exchange] and the government will require the sincere cooperation of the country's banking system during this period.

Commenting on the existence of a significant amount of foreign currency reserves in the hands of the government, Rafsanjani said that the government has entered the stage with decisive and strong planning and those people who set about hoarding foreign currency will realize their mistake as foreign currency rates decline in the next few weeks and they will convert their foreign currency to rials.

Rafsanjani called on the country's banking system to treat the country's production units compassionately this year and to help them avoid cash-flow problems during the move to a single rate foreign exchange. [passage omitted]

Oil Production Capacity To Be Increased*LD1505102393 Tehran IRNA in English 0954 GMT
15 May 93*

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—The capacity of Iran's daily oil production in the current Iranian calendar year is 4.3 million barrels which will be increased to 4.5 million BPD [barrels per day] within the next few months, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said here today. He added that the new output will remain unchanged at least for the next five years. Speaking in an interview with IRNA, the minister said Iran's present production was in accordance with the quota set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). He expressed optimism that Iran would gain dollars 17.9 billion in revenue from oil exports in the current (Iranian) year. The situation of the oil market is not satisfactory due to excessive supplies and the OPEC member-states should try to improve the condition through their close cooperation, the minister added. Referring to the huge petrochemical projects being carried out with a capital of dollars 2.2 billion, the

minister said the country's petrochemical and chemical output in the past year was 5.5 million tons which would increase to 6 million in the current year.

Six MKO Members Killed in Border Ambush

*LD1505122993 Tehran IRNA in English 1201 GMT
15 May 93*

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Six members of the terrorist Monafeqin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) [Mojahedin-e Khalq] were killed last Thursday when they attempted to infiltrate western borders in Dehloran, Ilam Province, Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) announced Saturday.

IRGC said the MKO members who tried to cross the border for sabotage operations, were killed in an ambush attack.

MKO Issues Statement on Operations

*NC1505175893 Paris AFP in English 1734 GMT
15 May 93*

[Text] Nicosia, May 15 (AFP)—Iranian militants killed or wounded more than 200 Iranian revolutionary guards in 14 separate operations this month inside Iran, the People's Mojahedin Organisation (MKO) [Mojahedin-e Khalq] said in a statement Saturday.

It also confirmed an Iranian report that six MKO militants were killed on Thursday in clashes with the revolutionary guards but denied that the fighting took place when they "attempted to infiltrate" western Iran.

"The six combatants were killed during operations inside Iraq", the statement received by AFP said.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA earlier reported that the fighters were killed Thursday when they tried to enter western Iran near Dehloran to carry out "sabotage operations."

The Mojahedin said they destroyed eight Iranian oil pipelines in the southern region of Abadan on May 12 and killing or wounding "dozens" of revolutionary guards in ensuing clashes. [sentence as received] An MKO militant was also killed.

They also claimed that "more than 90 Pasdaran (revolutionary guards) were killed or wounded on May 12 and 13 during attacks on the headquarters of the security forces in Dehloran" and one of its positions an army unit.

The Mojahedin, the main armed opposition to the government in Tehran, claimed to have killed or wounded 150 Revolutionary Guards in April.

Nepal & Bhutan

Further on Bhutanese Refugee Problem in Nepal

New Measures To Restrict Influx Set

*BK1205095893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0951 GMT
12 May 93*

[Text] Kathmandu, May 12 (AFP)—With more than 100,000 Bhutanese refugees camped on Nepalese soil and more pouring in, the government Wednesday introduced its first measures to stem the influx with help from the United Nations, the Foreign Ministry said here.

A ministry press note said stringent screening measures had been put into effect Wednesday on the Nepalese side of the border with Bhutan.

"The new measure for screening the Bhutanese refugees of Nepalese origin at Kakadbhita, 390 kilometres (244 miles) southeast of Kathmandu will be enforced as of Wednesday in consultation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)," the note said.

It said the UNHCR had agreed to provide necessary assistance in formulating the screening process.

"Under the new policy introduced on May 12, a screening process is to be implemented at the Nepal-India border check post of Kakadbhita in Jhapa district," it said.

"As of today, all asylum seekers at the border check post will have to submit themselves for screening, and only those who are confirmed as genuine asylum seekers from Bhutan will be permitted to enter Nepal and be registered for receiving assistance in the refugees camps," it added.

The refugee influx from Bhutan began two and a half years ago when hundreds of Bhutanese of Nepalese descent poured across the southern border, charging the Bhutanese Government with discrimination and brutality.

Bhutanese Government officials deny the charges, but have stuck to a policy of enforcing Bhutanese cultural traditions and language introduced in 1989 and counter-charge that many Bhutanese of Nepalese descent are involved in terrorism.

Meanwhile the Canadian Government announced it had provided 150,000 dollars for blankets for the refugees sheltered in camps run by the UNHCR and other non-governmental organizations in Nepal's far south east.

The money will also be used to educate the Bhutanese women and to support recreational activities in the camps.

Kathmandu's sudden move came after the failure of talks between Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad

Koirala and King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan for the repatriation of the more than 100,000 Bhutanese sheltered here.

After the failed talks at the seventh summit meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in Dhaka last month, Koirala appealed to foreign countries to help Nepal solve the problem.

He told ambassadors here that the Bhutanese refugees were causing serious economic, social and environmental problems for Nepal.

Refugees Hold Citizenship Documents

BK1305131693 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 30 Apr 93 p 1

[By Rajendra Sharma]

[Text] Birtamod, Jhapa, April 29—Refuting claims by Thimpu that not all those living in refugee camps in Nepal were Bhutanese nationals, over 97 percent of those fleeing the Dragon kingdom for camps in Nepal are Bhutanese citizens and possess supporting documents.

There are 83,669 Bhutanese, in the seven camps of Jhapa and Morang districts living as refugees. Though the Bhutanese government has dubbed the refugees as 'Nglop' or anti-national elements or 'economic immigrants', they have got the citizenship certificates and other testimonies to prove the ownership of land or have receipts of payment of revenues and other taxes to establish that they were the citizens of Bhutan.

According to Operation Management and Implementation Unit that involves United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the high ranking officials of the government, out of 13,237 families of refugees registered in the camps of Nepal till a month ago 8,757 families (66.15 percent) possess citizenship certificates while 1,626 families (12.29 percent) have got documents related with the land ownership in Bhutan.

Likewise, 240 families have health related documents, 33 have school certificates and other 2,248 families have various other documents to lay claim of their Bhutanese citizenship.

According to Pashupati Karmacharya, deputy director of the unit, 332 families have, however, no documents at all.

Upon a query by this reporter, those having no testimonies to their citizenship in Timai, Goldhap, Beldangi-1,2 and Bistar (extension camps) and Khudnabari along with Sanishchare camps of Morang said that their evidence were snatched away by the military and police of Bhutan or were burnt when their houses were set afire.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) collects statistics of the refugees entering Nepal through Kakarbhitta.

Protection Officer of UNHCR, Mr. Robert Sadlier informed that the refugees were provided with the facilities they are entitled to only after establishing their identification as the Bhutanese. The UNHCR sub-office chief at Jhapa, Mr. Baker said that the army has reportedly confiscated the documents from the refugees.

Meanwhile, the refugees also mentioned that the army had resorted to severe corporal punishment in order to seize all their documents including income tax clearance, school certificates, and the citizenships.

Nara Bhupal Bajgain of Imire, Dagajung, who is presently at the camp of Beldangi-1 said to this reporter, "they went to the extent of assaulting our women and children, let alone the destroying our documents."

Rana Bahadur Magar in the Sanishchare camp asserted that despite the atrocities of "the cruel Bhutanese army" who went beyond all limits to seize their documents they still had credentials to prove that they were Bhutanese. Mr. Magar, assembly member of Bhutan during 1958-66, said that the refugees could produce necessary documents dating back to 1964, the year the then Bhutanese prime minister, Jigme Palden, was assassinated. The Bhutanese government then raised the revenues from the Bhutanese citizens of Nepalese origin through their Kalimpong, India based representatives. "We still have those documents intact", said Mr. Magar.

"Why were we forced out of our country even when we had the citizenship certificate", asks Bhir Prasad Adhikari, 62, of Chanaute Chirang recalling that taxes were collected from them in the name of Samchi Garzman Estate—Bhutan.

The Bhutanese government has not only deprived the farmers, professionals, and students holding citizenships of their homeland but also forced the government officials and military personnel out of the country.

Ganga Bahadur Kshetri of Kalikhola of Sarbhang district who has only recently entered Nepal told this reporter that he did not know why he was forced out of Bhutan.

Kshetri, who was removed from the government service as telephone operator in Phuncholing a few months ago, said that he was compelled to leave Bhutan along with his family.

According to the Bhutanese who have recently entered Nepal, lower level employees of the government are being removed from Bhutan at present after the farmers of the countryside were forced out initially.

Genesh Khanal of Lapsibote Chirang said that his brother was forced out of service and the country after he served for the Bhutanese army for seven years alleging him of being involved in the political activities.

Purna Bahadur Khanal, younger brother of Genesh, is still in the Bhutanese jail.

Over 80,000 Refugees Reach Nepal

BK1405145493 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 7 May 93 p 1

[Text] Birtamod (Jhapa), May 6—The flow of Bhutanese refugees, who fled the Dragon Kingdom to escape the brutal suppression and state-sponsored atrocity unleashed by the royal government of Bhutan, is constantly on the rise.

The unabated influx of these refugees is still on at the rate of 2,000 a month.

According to the information provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Jhapa district administration, the number of refugees living in various camps of Nepal had reached 83,669 as of April 9, 1993.

The Area Police at Kakarvitta, the only entry point for the refugees, said that in the third week of April alone, Bhutanese refugees entered into Nepal at the rate of 60 a day.

Their number in the period of previous four months was about 2,000 a month.

Refugees said that they were forced to leave their villages as the security personnel threatened the Nepali speaking Southern Bhutanese, if they did not flee their homes.

They cited various examples of human rights abuses in Bhutan.

Padam Bahadur Gurung, of Taklai, Golfu of Bhutan said, "I had enough farm land in Bhutan and never knew of famine."

"One day army pulled down my house which left us with no alternative other than to flee," Mr. Gurung said.

According to the Human Rights Organization of Bhutan more than 51 people including women were killed in course of their movement for democracy and human rights.

They were killed by the army's various forms of atrocity like shooting, torture and gang rape.

Ramchandra Sigdel of Talai Sarvang of Bhutan told how he was beaten and tortured in prison. "I was continuously beaten and tortured, for nine months during the 15 months' prison period," he said.

"I was either not given food at all or forced to eat too much unable to digest."

When asked about continued suppression and atrocity in Bhutan and consequences of unabated refugee influx, the conservation official at the Jhapa based UNHCR office Mr. Robert Sadlier said that the UNHCR kept record only on the basis of information provided by the refugees themselves. However, he said, refugees told the stories of continuous atrocity and torture in Bhutan and added that they must have come due to the absence of proper treatment to them in their country.

Those refugees, who have recently arrived at the camps, told the horror stories of government's atrocity and suppression in Bhutan. However, the chief of the Jhapa based UNHCR office Mr. J.M. Baker claimed that the scale of suppression and atrocity had come down in recent days compared to the past.

All refugees wanted to return home once the atrocity and brutality of the Bhutanese government stopped. A 85 year old Dal Bahadur of Pinkuwa of Bhutan said, "despite suppression, I always love my soil."

He told of beating and rape of his daughter-in-law by the army. "I helped in the wedding of the King. I paid five rupees while a Drukpa was entitled to pay only one rupee," he said adding even then "army burnt down my house and forced us to leave the village".

Manmaya Chapagain, another refugee said that the army set her house ablaze due to which her infant daughter got severe burn injuries.

She was keen to return home as early as possible saying "we want to go home and do not want to stay here like beggars."

However, Parshuram Dahal who was once a member of Bhutanese parliament, said "unless the discrimination was stopped and political reforms were initiated, refugees won't return as they do not want to undergo torture and atrocity."

For him, the Bhutanese king should adopt the policy to promote national interest by means of positive and objective political and diplomatic initiatives.

Opposition Communist Leader Feared Drowned

BK1705050693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] In Nepal, the general secretary of the main opposition Communist Party of Nepal UML [United Marxist-Leninist], Mr. Madan Bhandari, is feared drowned in the Trishuli River. The accident occurred yesterday afternoon when the jeep in which he was travelling fell 50 meters down while negotiating a turn on the Pokhara-Narayanganr road.

Poachers Blamed For Deaths of Protected Animals

BK1005041393 Hong Kong AFP in English 1640 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Kathmandu, May 9 (AFP)—Nepal's prime minister has made a surprise visit to a national park where 79 one-horned rhinoceros and 20 Bengal tigers were reportedly killed by poachers, the Forestry Ministry said Sunday.

One press report linked park officials to the killings.

But surprised wildlife officials told Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala when he landed by helicopter

Friday at Chitaun National Park and Wildlife Preservation Centre that only 14 rhinos had been killed in recent months, to obtain their horns.

However, a local weekly newspaper, NEPALI PATRA, insisted the slaughter was much more extensive while another newspaper alleged that park officials were collaborating.

Quoting a security official at the park, about 120 kilometres (75 miles) south of here, the newspaper insisted that 79 rhinos and 20 Bengali tigers have been hunted down recently for their horns and other body parts.

Both animals are considered to be on the verge of extinction.

Nepali Patra said Indian poachers, aided by local people, had been able to infiltrate the reserve although some 8,000 army, Forestry Department and other personnel are responsible for guarding it.

The DESHANTAR newspaper meanwhile reported that rhinoceros horn can sell for as much as 60,000 dollars a kilogram (about 27,000 dollars per pound) when sold in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore or Europe.

It added that demand for tiger bones and skin for use in medicinal preparations was high in those countries.

Because of the high prices, "poachers are taking great risks to hunt down the striped tigers and the rhinos," DESHANTAR said, adding that some guards and officials had been bribed into cooperation.

Speaking to AFP, a senior Chitaun official insisted the higher number of rhino deaths, and the reported tiger killings, were inaccurate, and cited the same number of rhino deaths—14—as was given the prime minister.

"The latest records indicate there are about 400 rhinos and 200 Bengal tigers across the country," the official said.

It was not clear if Koirala accepted the lower figure offered by officials, but he called on them to be vigilant in protecting the animals.

In response to a request by the officials, the prime minister said he would make more vehicles available to give them greater range in the vast conservation area, a Forestry Department official said.

Pakistan

Mazari, Malott Meet, Discuss Issues

BK1605143493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] The acting chief of the United States South Asia Bureau of the State Department, Mr. John Malott, called on the prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, and discussed matters of bilateral interest and regional security.

The prime minister conveyed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen and consolidate the traditional friendly relations with the United States for more than four decades. Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said opportunities existed for the United States and Pakistan to engage in a mutually beneficial partnership which would be a source of strength for regional peace and stability. The prime minister said Pakistan would make efforts to address the concern expressed by the United States on matters relating to regional security as well as ongoing bilateral issues.

Mr. John Malott said it is the policy of the Clinton administration to strengthen relations with Pakistan. He said the United States would like to encourage countries of the region to take positive steps to defuse tension and improve the prospects of peace and security in the region.

Freed Western Diplomats Leave for Karachi

BK1405143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Three Pakistan-based Western diplomats taken in custody for illegal entry into Afghanistan have been released. The diplomats were missing since 24 April after they had entered Spin Boldak in Afghanistan, 10 km from the Balochistan border town of Chaman. The diplomats Jack Dodds, British; Stephen Elhart, German; and Gert Piening, Dutch; were handed over to the district administration of Chaman on Tuesday [11 May; day as heard]. Official sources told our Quetta correspondent that the diplomats, released unconditionally by Afghanistan, have now left for Karachi.

Arab 'Illegals' Asked To Leave Country by 31 May

BK1505154893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] According to an official announcement issued by the Home Department of the North-West Frontier Province in Peshawar today, all Arabs residing in Pakistan illegally have been advised to leave the country by 31 May. The order will not be applicable to Arabs holding diplomatic passports and those who are engaged in welfare activities for Afghan refugees as employees of nongovernmental organizations. In addition, Arab citizens holding yellow cards issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and those who are studying in Pakistani educational institutions under their government's sponsorship are also allowed to stay in Pakistan.

Algerian Team Arrives To Investigate Nationals

BK1605102093 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 May 93 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—Algerian diplomats arrived here Saturday to investigate the antecedents of the Algerian nationals arrested in the drive against Arabs illegally

staying in Pakistan. Their arrival coupled with the government announcement asking the Arabs to leave by May 31 at the latest.

A highly placed government official disclosed to THE NEWS that the Algerian diplomats including an Islamabad-based consul met the Provincial Home Secretary Gulzar Khan to abreast themselves of the particulars of their compatriots arrested during the ongoing campaign against Arabs launched on April 6.

Sources said the diplomats were concerned about the activities of Algerian Nationals in Peshawar who were believed to be involved in subversive activities and supporting the armed struggle against the Algerian government.

According to official statistics, as many as 792 Algerians had registered themselves upon their arrival in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] during the six year period starting 1987 out of which 414 Algerians reported their departure from Pakistan during the period 1987-93. Over 300 Algerians are still believed to be living in NWFP or the neighbouring Afghanistan.

The sources said the Algerian diplomats were particularly concerned about the printing of two Arabic periodicals in Peshawar containing 'subversive' material against the Algerian government and the Army and were being smuggled to Algeria and other Arab countries.

Arab sources revealed that an Algerian group calling itself the Islamic Ministry Group was printing two periodicals, the weekly 'ASHAHADAH' and fortnightly 'AT-TAMKEEN' in Peshawar. The latest 31 page AT-TAMKEEN magazine contained articles on the recently held meeting of the Foreign Ministers of OIC [Islamic Conference Organization], the Algerian Army, its role and the militant movement in Egypt. A special report had claimed massive desertion in the Algerian army and the success of Islamic militants in Algeria.

In the light of discussion with the Algerian diplomats the NWFP government, the sources said, directed the police to arrest those involved in undesirable activities and using Pakistani soil against their governments.

A four member Egyptian team, it may be recalled, had paid a similar visit to Peshawar on April 22 last. The team, however, had to return empty-handed, failing to track down Egyptian nationals wanted in their own country.

Meanwhile the NWFP government had ordered the Arab nationals to leave by May 31 at the latest. An official notification said only those Arabs could continue to stay in Pakistan who held diplomatic passports, or those held yellow cards issued by the Commissioner of Afghan Refugees [sentence as published]. Similarly students only sponsored by their governments could also continue staying here.

Reiterating its policy the government notification said those not falling in any of the three categories could avail this opportunity and leave Pakistan by the new deadline. Even

those who are in Afghanistan and their documents have expired or do not hold yellow cards, have also been asked to take advantage of the new opportunity. Such Arabs, it said would not be arrested and proceeded against under the law if they left Pakistan by the said date.

The Home Department would issue necessary permission to such Arabs for their transit through tribal areas on being approached by any Arab welfare organisation subject to the surety to the effect that they would leave within 10 days of their arrival in Pakistan from Afghanistan.

Mazari, Indian Envoy Discuss Bombay Blasts

BK1605144893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Pakistan, Mr. S.K. Lamba, called on the prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, in Islamabad today. The prime minister informed Mr. Lamba of Pakistan's desire to reduce tension between the two countries and to resolve all issues, including the core issue of Kashmir, through discussion. In response to a request from the high commissioner, Mr. Lamba, to track down the suspects of the Bombay blasts, the prime minister strongly condemned all acts of terrorism. The high commissioner was handed over a dossier of the investigations carried out by the task force set up for the purpose which stated that no trace has been found of the suspects having actually traveled to Pakistan or of their presence in Pakistan. The prime minister assured the Indian high commissioner of Pakistan Government's continued efforts in the investigations.

Further on Meeting

BK1705022893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari has said that Pakistan wants to reduce tension with India and settle all issues, including the key issue of Kashmir, through a dialogue. He said this while talking to Indian High Commissioner S.K. Lamba, who called on him in Islamabad yesterday.

The prime minister condemned all kinds of terrorism and handed over documents prepared on the basis of the investigation carried out by the task force set up in connection with the Bombay bomb blasts. The investigation finds no proof of the entry of persons involved in the Bombay blasts into Pakistan or their presence in Pakistan. The prime minister assured the Indian high commissioner that Pakistan will continue its investigations.

Foreign Minister Briefs Envoys on Policies

BK1705023693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The ambassadors of Qatar, Palestine, Romania, and the European Community and the Australian high commissioner separately called on Foreign Minister Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada in Islamabad yesterday.

Pirzada briefed them on the constitutional situation in Pakistan and the latest situation in Kashmir. He assured the envoys that the present government will continue the basic economic policies and attempts will be made to make the privatization process more transparent.

The Australian high commissioner told the foreign ministers that traders in his country are showing increasing interest in cooperation with Pakistani traders for starting economic projects in the Central Asian republics.

The ambassadors of Qatar and Palestine assured full cooperation and support in connection with the Kashmiri people's struggle.

Mazari Reiterates Vow: Elections 14 July

BK1505162093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, has again declared that the election will be held on the 14th of July next. He was talking to senior journalists at a dinner hosted by him in Islamabad tonight. He held out the assurance that the elections would be free, fair, and impartial. He said two members of the Election Commission would be appointed soon and the election schedule announced by the Election Commission as provided under the law.

The prime minister assured the journalists that he would always welcome their constructive criticism. They must continue to expose corruption. He regretted that in the past the press suffered because of exposing corruption in government ranks. He made it clear that he does not believe in victimizing the journalists and putting any restrictions on them. However, he expressed his opposition to yellow journalism.

Mazari on Army Role

BK1605032093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari has reiterated the caretaker government's resolve to hold free, fair, and impartial elections on 14 July. He was talking to senior journalists from across the country at a dinner hosted by him in Islamabad last night. He hoped that once the election program is announced, all kinds of doubts and confusion will end. Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said it will not be possible to add the national identification card numbers of voters to the electoral rolls due to the lack of time. However, the government will make the fullest attempt to hold free and fair elections.

About the Armed Forces' role in the elections, the prime minister said that according to the Constitution, elections will be conducted by the Election Commission. Without introducing amendments to the Constitution, the Armed Forces cannot be asked to conduct the elections. He has, however, written, to the Army chief to make available sufficient force to supervise the elections.

Answering another question, he said he has instructed his cabinet members to submit their list of assets to the Cabinet Division. As far as the candidates for the forthcoming elections are concerned, only the Election Commission can decide anything in this connection.

About the provincial assemblies, the prime minister said these legislative bodies are functioning according to the Constitution and there is no reason to dissolve them at the moment.

The prime minister referred to the accountability process and said the government is scrutinizing the former government's performance and if it could not finish this task, the future elected government would undertake the task.

When asked what steps the government is taking to discourage heavy spending by candidates in the forthcoming elections, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said he is against reckless spending in elections. The government is willing to hold election rallies of all candidates from the same constituency to stop this practice. Answering another question, he said during the election campaign, views should be expressed on issues and political party programs rather than on personalities.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Maulana Kauser Niazi said on the occasion that arrangements are being made to broadcast the manifesto of the political parties on radio and television next month. He invited the journalists to come forward with their suggestions in connection with the arrangement of these programs and cooperate with the government. The federal minister said the government wants to eliminate confrontation from the country's politics and that is why the journalists from various schools of thought have been invited to meet with the prime minister.

Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari said he believes in freedom of the press and he will not support imposing any restrictions on the press. The journalists could continue to perform their duties to expose corruption, be it in the present or past. He said he will welcome healthy criticism because it is in the national interest. It is imperative for running a fair and clean administration. He regretted that in the past the press suffered because of exposing corruption.

Mazari Remarks on Election Noted

BK1505122993 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 13 May 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Postponement of Elections—the Need for Caution"]

[Text] The legal and constitutional justification of the presidential order for dissolution of the National Assembly on 18 April is currently under the consideration of the Supreme Court. Naturally, the entire nation's attention is focussed on it. People throughout the country are reading reports on the lawyers' arguments and judges' observations with great interest. S.M. Zafar, the caretaker prime minister's lawyer, on 11 May

submitted a letter by the prime minister to the Supreme Court in which he said that he would hold the National Assembly elections on 14 July 1993 and that all necessary legal and administrative steps have been taken at all levels in this regard. He has also written to the Chief of the Army Staff to provide a supervisory infrastructure for the elections. The letter said that the caretaker cabinet has been expanded, thereby making it a caretaker national government. The political parties can now see for themselves the crystal-clear impartiality and keep themselves well-informed of the government's functioning during the elections. The prime minister said he is ready to include more ministers in the caretaker national government in order to give representation to some other groups so that they can also equally participate in the election process. The election will then be acceptable to all groups and parties and it will lead to political stability in the country.

The prime minister's letter to the Supreme Court constitutes his policy statement and a solemn pledge. The purpose of sending the letter was to apprise the Supreme Court of the government's viewpoint and its desires and objectives and to enable the court to keep in view the government's stand while dealing with the case currently under consideration. Addressing senior journalists of the country a day earlier, the prime minister announced in categorical terms that whether anyone agrees or not, his government is firmly committed to the promise of holding elections on 14 July. The letter submitted to the Supreme Court immediately after this announcement further clarified the government's intention regarding the elections and it leaves no scope for anyone to have any doubt about the government's commitment to holding elections on 14 July if the Supreme Court upholds the presidential order for the dissolution of the National Assembly.

However, it is somewhat surprising that on his arrival to Lahore from Islamabad on the same day, the prime minister said that 14 July is the day of elections. "However, if the public opinion is found to be against the holding of elections in July because of the hot weather and the month of Muharram, then postponement of the elections for a certain period of time can be considered." He said that the newspapers should keep them informed of the public opinion.

Although the prime minister in his statement declared 14 July as the day of elections, his remarks that postponement of elections for some time may be considered if the public opinion is found in its favor due to hot weather or the month of Muharram has somewhat debased all his earlier pronouncements and the letter submitted to the Supreme Court.

During his meeting with editors, the prime minister's attention was drawn to the fact that his ministers sometimes make contradictory remarks. The prime minister then said that because the cabinet is composed of representatives of various parties, therefore complete coordination of thought and action could not be accomplished

so far. He expressed the hope that these things would not happen after the next cabinet meeting. However, we would humbly state that the clear and firm impression created by the prime minister's statements on nonpostponement of elections and by his letter to the Supreme Court has somewhat been eroded by his Lahore statement. The prime minister may be better off not even mentioning the conditional postponement of elections. This might create undue doubts among the people and the Supreme Court might also ask the prime minister's lawyer to state the government's latest and final stand.

The country is currently passing through a difficult and transitional period. And not only the people, the press and the judiciary of Pakistan, but the world public is also keeping a watch on every aspect of our internal situation. Therefore, it will be better not to say or do anything which creates an impression that the government is suffering from inconsistency. The government has made a resolute pledge to hold elections on 14 July. Therefore, no hints should be given or conditional statements be issued which depreciates even partially the credibility of this pledge. If at any time a demand is made for postponing the elections either due to the hot weather, or the month of Muharram or any other reason whatsoever, then a decision can be taken keeping in view the intensity and justifiability of the demand. But in the absence of this, if a government official or spokesman says that "postponement of election can be considered if such a demand is made" it will only injure the confidence and trust in the government. Such remarks should be avoided as far as possible.

PPP on Election Rigging

BK1505145493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1412 GMT
15 May 93

[Text] Islamabad, May 15 (AFP)—The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of former premier Benazir Bhutto Saturday charged that a special cell had been constituted to rig the July elections in her home province of Sindh.

"A rigging cell has been established at the chief minister's secretariat at Karachi to deny PPP victory," party spokesman Shafqat Mahmood said.

The cell is headed by Provincial Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Shah's Secretary Imtiaz Sheikh, Mahmood said in a statement here.

He also rejected Shah's offer for the PPP to join the Sindh province's government.

The PPP, a partner in the four-week-old interim government led by caretaker prime minister Balkh Sher Mazari, is demanding the dissolution of the four provincial assemblies to ensure free polls as promised by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for July 14.

On April 18 the president sacked prime minister Nawaz Sharif after months of political feuding on April 18.

"It is on the advice of this rigging cell that wholesale transfers have recently been ordered in the province," the spokesman said, adding that officers, who were allegedly involved in tampering with the results in 1990 polls, had been posted at all major districts.

However, he was confident the PPP would "defeat the nefarious designs of the anti-democratic forces."

The statement follows Mazari's firm rejection of Bhutto's demand that elections be "conducted" by the army to ensure impartiality.

Mazari told reporters in the Punjab town of Multan late Friday that the army could "supervise" the elections but could not be asked to conduct the polls as there was no such provision in the Constitution.

Amendment Sought To Limit President's Powers

BK1605155093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] A Constitution amendment bill has been introduced in the Senate, under which it will be essential for the president to obtain the prior approval of the two-thirds majority of the Senate in order to exercise his discretionary power to dissolve the National Assembly. The bill, called the Constitution 13th Amendment Bill 1993, has been introduced by Hafiz Hussain Ahmed. Law and Justice Minister Iqbal Ahmad Khan opposed the bill, saying that certain other amendments to the Constitution are also necessary and they all should be considered together.

Attorney General Defends President's Actions

BK1505151893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] In the Supreme Court, the Attorney General, Mr. Aziz A. Munshi, resumed his arguments in support of the dissolution of the National Assembly and fresh elections in the country.

He submitted that 88 members of the National Assembly, including the leader of the opposition, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, had tendered their resignations to the president while 12 seats had already fallen vacant because of resignations of MNA's [members of the National Assembly] from Sindh Province. He said under these circumstances, the president was justified in forming an opinion that the government of the federation could not be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. He argued that had the president not dissolved the assembly, it would have turned into one-party government which was against the parliamentary form of government and the spirit of the Constitution. By dissolving the National Assembly, the president stopped the political situation from aggravating further.

On a query from the court, the attorney general contended that these members have lost confidence in the

impartiality of the speaker. Therefore, they handed their resignations to the president.

The second ground covered by the attorney general was the speech of the former prime minister, Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, on the 17th of April on radio and television, which he termed as derogatory and misconduct on the part of the petitioner. He recalled that only three days earlier, the former prime minister had a meeting with the president on the 14th of April and discussed with him various grave national and international issues confronting the nation. Both had agreed on the need to resolve these problems on an urgent basis and the former prime minister had agreed to come back to the president with specific measures.

The attorney general presented a document according to which the petitioner had expressed full confidence in the president and valued his guidance and advice on all matters of national importance. The attorney general argued that by making the speech, the former prime minister certified that the two pillars of state could not function together in various matters involving constitutional duties and functions. He said mutual consultation, trust, and confidence between high functionaries necessary for running the government were lacking due to the speech made by the petitioner against all norms of decency. He submitted that deadlock and stalemate which had become irreversible necessitated fresh elections.

The attorney general was still submitting his arguments when the court (?closed) for the day. The hearing of the petition will continue tomorrow.

Bhutto's Father-in-Law Returns After Exile

BK1505145793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1443 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Karachi, May 15 (AFP)—Former Pakistan premier Benazir Bhutto's father-in-law, Hakim Ali Zardari, ended three years of self-exile when he returned here Saturday, party sources said. Hakim was chairman of the country's Public Accounts Committee until he fled to Britain after the fall of Bhutto's government on August 6, 1990. He was later charged with corruption and embezzlement. It was not immediately clear whether Zardari's return was the result of a deal with the government, or if the charges have been dropped.

Sharif Calls On Businessmen To End Strike

BK1605105193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 May 93 p 5

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Lahore—Deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif has appealed to the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and other traders to call off their May 17 strike in the greater national interest.

Addressing a press conference at his Model Town residence Saturday, the former prime minister said he is

thankful to the trading community and the patriotic citizens for extending whole-hearted support to him and protesting against the unjustified dissolution of the National Assembly.

"Now since the matter is in the Supreme Court and the situation is delicate, I appeal to them in the name of country's solidarity to postpone their strike for indefinite period or at least till the time it is possible.

"The country had attained political and economic stability which is now totally destroyed. The foreign investors have also abandoned their investment programmes in Pakistan. Likewise, the development works have been put off", said the president of Pakistan Muslim League.

When asked whether his statements might influence the court verdict, Nawaz Sharif replied that he never gave such a statement. The only thing he ever said was that the country was facing extreme instability which was incomparable.

About the budget, the former prime minister asked how could a caretaker government incapable of administering the country prepare a budget.

Challenging Mian Zahid Sarfraz's allegations on television that he (Nawaz Sharif) had spent 95 percent of the Punjab's annual development budget on a particular area, the former prime minister said, "If somebody is hell bent upon telling lies, I don't know how to define such a person. He gets briefing from the president and passes it on to the media. I cannot say anything about the two of them.

"Is it a crime to provide electricity to the people, questioned Nawaz Sharif. Weren't the people of area surrounding Tarbela entitled to power supply. It seems as if both the President and the Accountability Committee have no sympathies with the people", he asked.

Recalling his achievements the former premier mentioned in brief about the unprecedented royalty given to NWFP [North West Frontier Province] and Balochistan for gas and electricity. The Muslim League leader also referred to the Indus Highway project, Gwadar harbour, Peshawar and Islamabad airport projects which were started during his regime at the cost of Rs 80 to 86 billion.

To a question about discretionary funds, Nawaz Sharif said Zahid Sarfraz should have first seen the accounts in the Prime Minister Secretariat. "I have spent the money on the establishment of Baitul Maal on the uplift of orphans, widows and the destitute. If I get another chance, I will spend ten times the money I have already spent", said the deposed prime minister.

To a query about the extraordinary expenditure on Rajwind Road, Nawaz said it was a matter of prestige to build such a road and protect the participants of Tableeghi moot from traffic mess. The newsmen are welcome to assess the situation for themselves, the Leaguer added.

To Leghari's allegation about negative growth, Nawaz said the nation knows whether it was negative or otherwise. Referring to Zahid Sarfraz's invitation to debate the cooperatives issue on TV, Nawaz Sharif said he did not receive any invitation. On this, Shabbaz Sharif intervened to tell the newsmen that he had offered Zahid to debate the issue but the latter escaped.

When asked by a newsman that he (Nawaz Sharif) once spoke in favour of Zahid Sarfraz on the car scandal, Nawaz replied, "he begged for the statement many a time".

Sharif, Others Accused of Acquiring Illegal Loans

BK1605164693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] The chairman of the Accountability Committee, Mian Zahid Sarfraz, has said the families of the former prime minister and the ex-interior minister acquired loans amounting to nearly 124 crore rupees from the defunct cooperative societies in utter violation of relevant laws and rules. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he said the family of Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif secured loans amounting to about 68 crore rupees from these societies, while the family of Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, drew loans of some 56 crore rupees. He regretted that while the ordinary depositors of the cooperative societies were running from pillar to post, the relatives, friends, and acquaintances of the former prime minister and the ex-interior minister got back their money in lakhs from these societies under pressure. He disclosed that the speaker of the defunct National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan; the former chief minister of Punjab, Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne; and one of his friends, few relatives, and acquaintances of Chaudhary Shujat Hussain and an MPA [member of provincial assembly] of Mian Channun got back their money in millions from the societies under pressure.

Sri Lanka

Moves by President on Resolution of Issues, Problems

Rules Out Snap General Elections

BK1505065293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0629 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 15 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's new president Dingiri Banda Wijetunge has ruled out holding snap general elections and declared that Monday's crucial regional polls could not topple the government, press reports said Saturday.

"There is no need to talk about a parliamentary election now ... It will be held in March 1995. The spoon is in my hand. The Provincial Council elections cannot change the government," Wijetunge told an election meeting Friday.

The president made his remarks when addressing a meeting in central Mawanella in support of a ruling party

candidate for the May 17 polls to seven provincial councils, THE ISLAND newspaper said.

Opposition parties have called on voters to elect their candidates to the regional councils because it would then force the government to go for early general elections. Parliamentary elections are not due until March 1995.

The non-controversial Wijetunge also warned the opposition that as finance minister he would not allocate funds for development in their areas if the money was to be spent on creating chaos and division of the country.

The provincial councils are considered the most important local government bodies because they have limited autonomy to raise taxes and a provincial police force and enact limited legislation.

Wijetunge, who succeeded assassinated president Ranasinghe Premadasa, is due to participate in a series of religious ceremonies in central Kandy Saturday together with ruling party politicians vying for seats in regional elections.

Meanwhile, the blood-splattered election campaigning ended without any violence midnight Friday.

The campaign was paralysed when an unidentified gunman shot dead opposition leader Laliith Athulathmudali while addressing an election meeting here on April 23. Eight days later Premadasa was blown to pieces by a suicide-bomber.

Election officials said over 30,000 police would be deployed to guard the 8,198 polling booths in the seven provinces that will go to the polls to elect some 366 members from among 2,351 candidates.

Seeks To Resolve Insurgency Through Talks

BK1505124693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] President D.B. Wijetunge has said that the north-east problem should be solved through discussion. Addressing newsmen in Kandy yesterday, he said that a political solution is necessary. If anyone can help in this regard, we welcome such a move. The president was in Kandy at his official residence, the President's Pavilion, meeting some foreign delegates and others.

At the outset, the president said that they bemoaned the tragic demise of President Premadasa. He said his government was given a mandate to rule for six years. We have another one and a half years to go. If one tried to obstruct the smooth functioning of the government, then progress will be retarding. Placing all kinds of obstacles in its path, demoralizing the police, inciting violence—all this should cease, the president emphasized.

He said that the people elected the government for six years. If you disrupt its activities, you are disrupting the prosperity of the nation. We accept constructive criticism and it must be made in a good spirit and not with

rancor or malice. He further said that we spend 1 million and 25,000 rupees on the northeast war. We are government. They have no mandate from their own people to ask for Eelam, the president went on to say referring to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. He added that the wealth of a politician was his people.

Orders Reforms, Disbands 'Flying Squad'

BK1605075493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 16 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's new President Dingiri Banda Wijetunge has surprised both critics and supporters with a radical clean up of the administration while maintaining his low profile "Mr. Clean" image.

Wijetunge, 71, an unassuming man forced more by circumstances than ambition to succeed assassinated president Ranasinghe Premadasa, has within a week silently introduced sweeping changes, an official source said.

A paramilitary "flying squad" established by Premadasa to hound opponents of the government was disbanded last week by Wijetunge who has ordered an investigation into the unit's activities, official sources said Sunday.

Police said that the dreaded extra-judicial unit operated by a retired deputy inspector general of police outside the normal security establishment was dismantled and its men sent on compulsory leave last week.

"The changes that are taking place overnight shows that Wijetunge knew what was happening during Premadasa's government but was probably too scared to talk openly at the time," a senior government official said.

Premadasa, who was blown to pieces in a suspected suicide bomb attack during a May Day rally here, was regarded as a strongman who single handedly controlled all key functions of the government.

Ruling party dissidents accused Premadasa of being a one-man show but failed to impeach him on charges, including bribery, corruption, covering up of murder and believing in the supernatural to guide the destiny of the nation.

Wijetunge, unlike his predecessor, has been divesting himself of responsibilities over several departments and statutory bodies although he still holds the finance and defence portfolios.

"Wijetunge has shown that it is possible for an administration to make drastic changes without a change of government," an aide who did not want to be named said.

However, Wijetunge has pledged to continue Premadasa's liberalisation policies aimed at boosting foreign interest in the country's economy dented by an ongoing Tamil separatist war in the island's northeast.

Rules Out Early Cabinet Reshuffle

BK1605113493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Sri Lanka's new president, D.B. Wijetunge, yesterday ruled out an early reshuffle of his cabinet and said he would continue his predecessor's village development projects, but on a lower key. He told reporters in the central hill country town of Kandy that he would also restructure and strengthen the country's administration. He dissolved and then reappointed the cabinet retaining several portfolios including that of finance, promoting speculations that there would be a reshuffle soon.

He said he will carry on the Gamudawa village re-awakening program of home building started by the late Mr. Premadasa but would scrap the associated ceremonies and exhibitions which critics say wasted the public fund.

Mr. Wijetunge dismissed reports about a possible reconciliation between the ruling United National Party and the breakaway Democratic United National Front, DUNF, following Mr. Premadasa's assassination. The president also said that he was ready to hear the views of the opposition parties about abolishing the executive presidency and restoring parliament supremacy. He

added that the government may have to appoint a select committee of parliament, invite public representations, and finally hold referendum to decide the fate of this system.

Security Measures Tightened for NE Elections

BK1505124893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Campaigning for the provincial council election on Monday, the 17th, ended at midnight last night. Police headquarters sources say that no one will be permitted to conduct, hold, or take part in any procession until one week after results of the elections are announced. They also say that public meetings have been banned with effect from midnight last night. Such meetings cannot be held for one week in any administrative district after the members of the provincial council have been declared elected. Police also said that they will deal firmly with persons who violate election law. Directives have been sent out to prevent intimidating of voters who come to cast their votes. Police officers are being deployed countrywide to man police booths as well as outside the booths.